

7 Robinson
AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS,
MEMORANDUMS,
AND
CONFESSIONS.

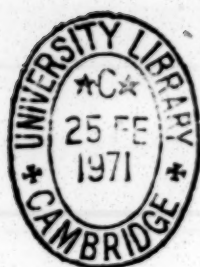
TAKEN FROM THE JOURNAL
OF
HIS PREDATORIAL MAJESTY,
THE
KING of the SWINDLERS.

“ A man may as well be honest altogether,
as to serve the DEVIL by halves.”

MACHIAVEL.

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DEDICATION.

*To the PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, and
MEMBERS of the SOCIETY, instituted for the
protection of trade against Swindlers and
Sharpers.*

GENTLEMEN,

A WORK that has for its object, the development and exposure of the arts, devices, and manœuvres, by which SWINDLERS elude your vigilance, and (in spite of the spirited measures you direct against them), prosecute their depredations with impunity;—cannot be more properly dedicated than to you.

To your patronage, therefore, the following miscellany is recommended, and your co-operative endeavours to promote its circulation humbly requested, by

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and

Most humble servant,

THE EDITOR.

P R E F A C E.

IT is the common practice of great men, whether celebrated for virtue or villainy, to keep journals.—The writer of the memorandums from which the following memoirs are taken, seems to have been actuated by a desire to surpass in these records of his own infamy, the *Confessions* of ROUSSEAU,—in this object he could not fail of success: for the faults of that eccentric philosopher were ballanced by numerous and splendid virtues; but the unexampled turpitude which gives infernal pre-eminence to the KING of the SWINDLERS, hath extinguished in him every spark of moral and social virtue; and no sentiment or exercise of goodness occurs, in the transactions or adventures of sixteen years; by which the reader of his journal obtains a moment's respite, from the contemplation of human nature, in its most despicable and horrid form.

This singular miscellany fell into the Editor's hands through the carelessness of its owner, who left it on the seat of a hackney coach, which he quitted at a small distance from the office of an *advertising money lender* in Poland Street.—He was instantly succeeded by a lady,

who took possession of his journal, and after satisfying her own curiosity, gave it to the Editor; earnestly recommending the exposure of its contents, for the information and benefit of the community.

The mere possession, under these circumstances, did not, in the Editor's opinion, authorize his publishing, or justify his retaining it: he therefore advertised the manuscript,—offering to resign it to the bearer of any *memorandum* or *confession*, agreeing in substance and character with the original; and declaring his determination (if not claimed in a given time), to prepare it for the press, and to publish it as soon as possible.

Having thus satisfied every punctilious consideration, and *no claim being made*; he hath fulfilled his promise, and discharged his duty to the public, by promulging its contents.

The Editor hath in various instances been obliged to arrange his materials (for the sake of perspicuity) in a more connected order than they are presented in the manuscript. Many of the adventures, enterprizes and exploits that were recorded in *scattered hints*, and *memorandums* by the KING, are therefore stated narratively: but he assures the reader that in such cases, he has neither presumed to indulge his fancy,—to deviate from the *obvious* meaning of the writer,—nor to paint him in livelier colours than he paints himself.

It is to be observed that the introductory soliloquy, in which the KING commences his confessions,—represents his situation and feelings at the awful and interesting

moment, that immediately succeeded the firing of the King's Bench prison, by the rioters in the year seventeen hundred and eighty :—and that several subsequent pages of his journal, apply principally to the events of that memorable period.

The Editor thinks it necessary (before he closes his preface), to premise to his readers the *KING's apology for his confessions* ; lest the atrociousness of the facts and principles he avows, should induce a doubt of their being fairly stated, as they are declared to be, *from his own journal*. The occasion which suggested his apology, will be seen in its proper place,—the apology itself, is as follows :

“ If this unreserved avowal of my thoughts and actions,
“ ever meet any other eye than my own, it will probably
“ be imputed to madness or folly. It is, notwithstanding,
“ a measure of consummate prudence and wisdom :
“ for having never possessed the qualities and dispositions
“ essential to friendship, or even cordial intercourse ;—I have no confidential communications : and
“ to this I am probably indebted for the length and
“ prosperity of my *reign*. My journal, therefore, is to
“ me as a confidant.—It enables me to disclose myself,
“ without hazard of being betrayed ; and to rehearse my
“ exploits, without incurring danger, or exposing myself
“ to disgrace. My frequent perplexities, my vanity,
“ or the exultations of success would otherwise irresistibly
“ impel me, (as MIDAS was impelled to discover
“ he had ass's ears,) to be more communicative, than
“ might accord with my interest, or be consistent with
“ my personal safety.”

Though *repeated advertisements* of this extraordinary manuscript produced *no claimant*;—yet, *various persons*, applying to themselves, the *title* of KING of the SWINDLERS;—have endeavoured by *artful*, and *outrageous* means, to embarrass, and prevent the *publication* of it. But the Editor, (regardless to whom the *title* may belong,) will neither be diverted, or intimidated, from exposing the nefarious arts; through which the numerous, and manifold deceptions, frauds, and depredations, recorded in the journal of his *Predatorial Majesty*, were accomplished :

“ And if the crown fits more than one,

“ Each rogue it fits may put it on.’

AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS

AND

CONFESSIONS.

JUNE 7, 1780.

“IT is an ill wind that blows no body good.”—
This glorious conflagration hath delivered me
from the bowels of a prison, and enabled me

“To walk forth at large, and wander free as air.”

Though not much given to prayer, I cannot
resist the impulse of the present occasion.—
May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
prosper the righteous purposes of the mob!

Would I could partake in the joy of my fel-
low-fugitives, whose countenances express as-
surance of a kind reception from their friends!
Alas! I have no friends!—the nature of my
commerce with men, precluded attachment;
and my rapacity, blasted every sentiment of

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good-will. I stand alone in the world ; or, am rather like CAIN, in a world "where my hand is " against every man, and every man's hand " against me."

Wandering as chance directed my steps, I was roused from my reverie by a *bill-sticker*, who thrust a paper into my hand, announcing the subject of debate for that evening, at the Westminster Forum. It was some time before I recovered from the effect of this abrupt intrusion upon my meditations ; for the perpetual apprehension of Sheriffs and Police Officers had so weakened my nerves, that the smallest surprise acted upon them with the force of an electrical shock.

The agitation occasioned by this rencontre being subsided ; and my first thoughts as they are upon all occasions, being employed to convert it in some way or other to advantage ;— a pre-sentiment of good fortune (too confident to be otherwise conceived than by inspiration) was so instantaneously suggested to my fancy, that I verily believed the bill-sticker was directed by my guardian Dæmon ; and that the Westminster Forum, was destined to be the first scene of my future exploits.—I rejoiced beyond measure at this renewal of intercourse

with my FAMILIAR ; to whose desertion I imputed the succession of mishaps, that have reduced me from a state of splendor, nobles might envy ; to the abject, and degraded state, from which he now flatters me with hopes of relief, through the whimsical interposition of a bill-sticker.

The Devil is certainly an incomprehensible being.—

He raised me from a stool in Ayliff Street, Goodman's Fields, where I earned a decent livelihood with a pair of brushes and a blacking-ball ; loaded me with a rapid succession of favours ; and at length placed me in a chariot with three lazy rascals at my back, for no reason within my comprehension ;—or for any merit that could entitle me to such distinguished favor : for I never had carried my depredations when he first noticed me, beyond stealing occasionally a pewter pot, or now and then making prize of a solitary tea-spoon to supply the exigences of my trade.

My disgrace is not less unaccountable than my exaltation.—The strictest survey of my conduct doth not present to my recollection a single instance, in which I have disobeyed his injunctions, or slighted his suggestions. I can-

not reproach myself with any act of justice that could be avoided ;—nor with any scrupulous repugnance to rapine, perfidy, or fraud : I never felt compunction nor ever betrayed a symptom of pity or remorse ;—

“ Though stiled a SWINDLER, desperado, Jew ;

“ Though prosecuted with the dire curses

“ Of widows, undone minors, and what else :

“ My FRAUDS and PERJURIES do justify ;”

it cannot be alledged that popular detestation hath appalled me, or, that my cheek hath ever been suffused with the blush of shame ;—Yet am I abandoned to the mortifications of disgrace ; to the hardships of penury, and to the humiliating apprehensions of being re-conveyed to a prison,

I must again repeat,—the DEVIL is certainly an incomprehensible being.

Arrived at the Hungerford coffee-house, seated myself in a private part of the Room, and proceeded to consider my plan of operations for the evening.—determined to attend the Forum. The subject of debate could scarcely be called a question : it opposed the rights of the people to the prerogative of the Crown, in the appointment and removal of Ministers.

Political questions, agitated upon the real principles of the disputants, induce strong expressions, and extort the avowal of bold sentiments. Subjects of information may thence arise, and my services as an INFORMER, procure a temporary support from Government.

The present state of London and Westminster is peculiarly favourable to my purpose. Charges of sedition and rebellion (being consonant to the immediate apprehensions and terrors of the public mind), will be cordially received; and the general confusion which prevails, will prevent too critical an investigation of the characters, or credibility of witnesses. As an INFORMER, therefore, *under the circumstances of the moment*, I may expect to be distinguished, and I hope rewarded, as a friend to the Community, and a supporter of Government. I will consult my friend HYDE,—we may act in concert, or play into each others hand. It has always been a necessary part of my system, to secure a trading Justice; and none of the gang is more tractable, or less squeamish than HYDE.—After all, it is not impossible but the mob may prevail: something must be done to give me in that case, an equal advantage in the other scale.—It is determined,—Colonel M-l-s is my man.—An introduc-

tion to some of the active leaders,—addressing them as the *Friends of Liberty*,—and professing a warm attachment to their cause,—will be a sure passport to their confidence. I may thus act securely as a SPY on both sides,—be qualified to *serve* or *betray* either,—and which ever shall prevail, to provide for my own safety and advantage in the end.

Called on HYDE,—found him to my utter astonishment, averse to a connection.—He muttered half sentences about character, opinion of the world, dignity of a magistrate, contamination, &c. &c.—and without waiting a reply, turned from *me*, to confer with one of his runners. I felt, and should certainly have resented the indignity; but observing their looks to be frequently directed towards me, I thought it prudent to retire, without pressing my purpose further on the conscientious and immaculate Mr. HYDE.

Met SOLOMON DE COSTA, who was some time an under clerk in my office; he accosted me with a mortifying familiarity, which very much surprized me; as he had never been in my confidence, further than to convey an anonymous letter, or by affidavits *pro forma* to prove notices, which other clerks had deliver-

ed. Not knowing but I might want his services, I concealed my chagrin, and retired with him to an obscure eating house in Church Court !
How are the mighty fallen !

SOLOMON was very communicative, and shewed that he had more of the WISE MAN in him, than the name ; he told me, that what he had learnt in my service, was of no use to him in any other place ; for if the gentlemen from whom he had solicited employment, *understood* his abilities, they wanted *spirit* to use them. But though he had not been able to avail himself of his acquaintance with the *practice* of my office, he had exercised the *principle* with great success ; and would give me a specimen of his dexterity, if I would accompany him to any public place.—The subject became interesting : —I was all attention ;—humoured his familiarity ;—proposed questions merely (*in appearance*), to assist my comprehension ;—led him insensibly, to be so explicit, as to put him entirely at my mercy,—a point which I aim at with all mankind ; and no man excels me in the art of accomplishing it,—considered him as fairly enlisted in my corps ;—dispatched him with a letter to Colonel M-l-s, requesting the honour of a few minutes conversation, which

he politely granted ;—waited on him without delay,—was handsomely received !—treated with great respect !—The Colonel is a perfect contrast to HYDE.—Promised to introduce me the next day, to a committee of the Protestant Association at the Crown and Rolls Tavern. The Colonel certainly mistakes me for some other person.

Went to the Forum at half past eight.—SOLOMON attended me at a distance.—There is great advantage in having two strings to one's bow.

The Room was crowded,—the audience motley, and much disposed to be riotous. The Forum, I think, will not afford much exercise to SOLOMON's talents.

Mr. EMMET, a young Templar, had just risen on the popular side of the question, in reply to Mr. Alderman WOLDRIGE.—The eloquence of this young man, the energy and elegance of his language, the brilliancy of his imagination, and the force of his reasoning, gave him the entire possession of his audience. He was several times prevented from sinking under his agitation, by seasonable bursts of

applause, which gave him time to recover his respiration. In one of these intervals, I observed Doctor S—th, (an American enthusiast), consult his watch, with some degree of impatience, which, (knowing him to be a speaker on the same side), I attributed to his apprehensions, that the young orator would leave nothing for him to say on the subject.

In two minutes, I beheld SOLOMON at his side.—I conjectured the consequence,—and having no reason to doubt the dexterity of my *commis*, I feared only, that the Doctor might again be moved by the spirit of impatience, and discover *too soon*, that his time-piece had changed its master.—The conclusion of Mr. EMMET's speech in a very few minutes, relieved me from this apprehension.—The Doctor instantly rose, and having in due form, bespoke a candid and patient hearing ; proceeded to observe, that he had been anticipated in the best points, and the strongest arguments of his intended speech, owing, as he supposed, to the happy coincidence of his sentiments with those of the gentleman who preceded him. That he would not therefore trespass on their indulgence by a repetition of them, but confine himself to such observations on the conduct of ministers, and their employer, as would clearly prove

them to be the authors of every calamity that *had arisen*, or *should arise*, from the spirited exertions of the Protestant association.—To the credit of the audience, a general murmur of disapprobation was expressed. The Doctor proceeded, notwithstanding, to utter such a volley of vulgar abuse,—of common place sedition,—and unequivocal instigations to rebellion, as offended the audience, and a general uproar ensued.

I had taken a correct statement of his speech, and was on the point of retiring; but the Doctor having prudently withdrawn, the tumult subsided; and the company having resumed their seats, a Mr. G^ar^w, was called upon, to reply to Mr. EMMET. This young man, is likewise a law student, but very unequal to a competition or comparison with Mr. EMMET. He has not abilities to support the one; nor respectability of character, *as a Forum orator*, to bear him out in the other: for a participation of the sixpences collected at the door, must for ever represent him to the minds of his audience as a Buffoon. He is, however, in high credit as a speaker, and was expected to furnish out an agreeable finale, to the entertainment of the evening.—But alas! The orator had but just presented himself in a

contemplative attitude, adjusted his cravat, and thrice stroked his chin,—when notice arrived, that martial law was proclaimed, “and all his Majesty’s loving subjects were required to keep themselves quietly within their respective dwellings.”

An alarm of fire could not have produced a more expeditious evacuation of the Forum, than this intelligence. I was among the foremost who reached the street ; but had it not in my power to obey the proclamation.—I had no dwelling to receive me ! this recollection caused a momentary depression;—but it was merely momentary. For my mind is at all times, too much occupied by the more useful and important consideration of *WAYS and MEANS*, to be susceptible of moral, sentimental, or *any* effeminate impressions.—I looked in every direction for SOLOMON.—A bird in hand, is worth two in the bush.—It was certainly a gold watch.—But Solomon did not appear.

In pursuance of the plan, which brought me to the Forum, I proceeded to the Horse-guards, and delivered my notes of DR. STH’s speech, to a gentleman, whom I supposed to be the commanding officer. He looked at the paper, and after taking a complete survey of my per-

son; committed me to the care of a centinel, and retired. I proposed fifty questions to my guard, but could not extort from him a syllable in reply. It was a full hour, before I was summoned to an examination. Two serjeants and a file of grenadiers were my conductors.—I would willingly have dispensed with this ceremony.—The committee, or court, was composed of military officers, several members of the privy council, and some other persons of distinction.—I was desired to state *where*, and upon *what occasion*, the speech I had given in, was delivered. A gentleman now observed, that, as the liberty, or life of one of his Majesty's subjects, (though not a very loving subject), might be affected by the information I was about to give; he thought it highly proper it should be given upon oath; this opinion being unanimously approved, *the new testament* was presented to me in the *usual form*; and in the *usual form*, I conveyed it to my lips.—The officer to whom I was at first introduced, desired I would declare (before I entered upon my deposition), to what religious community I belonged.—Not perceiving the drift of this enquiry, I did not immediately answer.—I presume, said he, you do not understand me; I will be more explicit.—If there be any truth in physiognomy, you are a Jew: Am I right or not?—it was impossible

to avoid answering in the affirmative. He gave me a contemptuous look, and called for the Pentatuch. The oath was now administered in the form, used by the disciples of Moses.

Having finished my deposition, I was desired to subscribe my name and place of abode. My true situation, and circumstances could be no longer concealed.—This was no place for evasion or prevarication.—I hate all courts, from the King's Bench, to the court of requests ;—but from the summary proceedings, and discretionary powers of a military jurisdiction,—good lord deliver me!

At twelve o'clock I was permitted to depart. A serjeant having attended me to the gate, slid a guinea into my hand, and left me.—It was murmured at this moment, THAT THE INSURGENTS HAD STORMED THE BANK. I could have raved,—cursed my ill fortune, and execrated the superstitious folly that urged me to the Forum.—A pillage of the bank, was an exploit compleatly suited to my natural avidity for plunder.—My NAME would have given eclat to the enterprize,—If the ill-omend BILL-STICKER had not dissipated my cogitations, I might *now* have been KING of the insurgents ;—and EVEN NOW, been dividing

the spoils of the bank.—INSURGENTS,—as matters stand, is a very proper term.

Denominations must be changed as circumstances vary. I remember a case in point.—While the operations of the pretender, in the year forty five, were confined to Scotland, his followers and adherents were stiled by the * *Solicitor General*, and very properly stiled REBELS, and TRAITORS; but when they had passed the Tweed, and were making rapid approaches towards the capital, he adopted a more conciliating denomination;—stiling them, (according to the parliamentary reports of that time) THE NORTHERN ARMY.

Full of the idea of SPOIL, I moved mechanically towards the bank.—The clatter of a large party of horse, accompanied with shouts of exultation, intimated that some new event had happened.—The tidings that followed, gave a sudden turn to my thoughts.—The rioters had been repulsed in their attempt on the bank; some were killed, and many of them made prisoners. And as they were now opposed in every quarter of the town, by armed citizens, and numberless detachments, from an army of

* MR. MURRAY, afterwards Earl of Mansfield.

twenty thousand troops, assembled in St. James's, and Hyde-park; it was more than probable, they would be totally dispersed, or destroyed in another day:—The transitions of the human mind, from one extreme to another, are astonishing.—I was instantly diverted from the contemplation of “treasons, stratagems, and “spoils;”—to a serious and sincere determination, to become as loyal, peaceable, and loving a subject, as any Christian in his Majesty's dominions.—Having no inducement to proceed further, I returned with the crowd towards Charing Cross, but meant to withdraw myself as soon as possible; and being really fatigued both in body and mind with the exercise, and occurrences of the day, I stole into Round Court, and procured from my friend MEDLEY*, a good supper, and a comfortable bed, at the expence only, of being bored for two hours, with the prowess of ECLIPSE, the bon mots of CHASE PRICE, and the edifying histories of almost every black leg on the turf.

Went to bed at half past three.—Recollected with regret, my disparagement of the counsel, and suggestions of my GUARDIAN GENIUS. De-

* The master of a coffee house, in Round Court, frequented principally by adventurers on the Turf.

terminated in future, to have more confidence, and to conclude in all events,—“ That whatever is,—is best.”

June 8th.

The intelligence of this morning hath put an end to all my speculations on the riots.

SOLOMON's importance now rose in my estimation five hundred per cent.—Resolved to negotiate an immediate alliance with him.—Intimated to my host, that I should trespass on his hospitality for another night's lodging,—and hastened to Archer-street. I had made no appointment, but SOLOMON evidently expected me. His impatience to communicate *his* ideas, rendered the disclosure of *mine* unnecessary.—He opened with a very pretty exordium.—Producing the splendid Trophy of his expedition to the Forum ;—he pressed my acceptance of it in a tone and manner so insinuating, that I could not find in my heart to refuse it.

“That watch, said he, with the chain and seals, must have cost at least *fifty* guineas. Yet there is no place, from White-chapel, to Hyde-park-corner, where *I* could safely dispose of it, for more than *ten*.—In the discount of a bill, the sale of an annuity, or in almost any branch of *your* cast

of acting, it may be made current for five times the amount of its prime cost. He laid before me a great variety of valuable articles, in proof of his dexterity;—declared he had no other connection; and concluded with the offer of a coalition upon my own terms.

With *men of honour*, few words are best.—I approved the proposition, and signified my assent, by a cordial and hearty shake of my new associate by the hand.

My reception at the Horse Guards, and the circumstances attending my examination, gave me reason to suspect that no credit would be given to my information. I thought it prudent, therefore, (as well for SOLOMON's safety, as to secure the quiet possession of my new acquisition), to alarm DR. S—TH with an anonymous notice, that informations were lodged, and a warrant issued against him, as a promoter of the riots. A letter was accordingly dispatched; and I had very soon the satisfaction of knowing, that from this, or some other cause of apprehension, the doctor had actually disappeared.

I was so elated with the advantageous alliance I had made with SOLOMON, that I fancied myself

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inaccessable to care or trouble, and had neither sense or presage of evil.—This delusion lasted but a moment.

The squalling of a young child, reminded me of * DEBORAH and her brats, and renewed the torment, which my total forgetfulness of them had respited. But thanks to the law of MOSES, I can throw off *one* of these burthens, and 'tis plaguy hard, that any law should prevent one's dispatching the other, by the ready means of a horse pond. For, there certainly is no better reason for a man's being *compelled* to endure the inconvenience of a superfluity of children, than to have his house over-run with cats, by a restraint on the privilege of drowning kittens.

The revolution, which a single day hath produced in my affairs, inclines me to make an effort towards re-establishing myself in business. The contents of SOLOMON's strong box,—and the fruits of his future *industry* (estimated on the lowest calculation), are more than sufficient to preclude the immediate necessity of any hazardous attempts to obtain credit, and perchance to prevent my ever wanting it.

* His wife and children.

No harm or inconvenience can arise from the experiment. But a proper assistnat must be procured.—FREEMAN is a decent creditable looking man, and is altogether better suited to my purpose at present, than a flashy coxcomb. The advertisements must refer to fictitious persons. Much, therefore, will depend on first impressions. FREEMAN's countenance and figure, are perfectly adapted to induce confidence. I fear only, that he has more honesty at bottom, than may be convenient. Yet *my appearance*, (till certain transactions in *Love Lane* are forgotten, or popular prejudices soothed;) will be as fatal to the success of *my manœuvres*, as the disclosure of his *cloven foot*, to the *purposes* of my FAMILIAR.—FREEMAN* must therefore, personate the principle.—

* Mr. FREEMAN began the world under better auspices, than he is introduced to the reader. But having lost through imprudence or misfortune, a creditable employment in the Custom-house; he compleated his ruin, by engaging as first clerk at a house in *Love Lane*, in which the KING presided. The failure of that firm in 1778, was marked with such peculiar infamy, that Mr. F's share of the disgrace, had precluded him from every respectable employment; and his means of subsisting were totally exhausted, when this unfortunate renewal of his connection was proposed.

It is my *fort* to be equally rapid in the conception and execution of an enterprize.—Ordered FREEMAN to attend me at MEDLEY's.—I never spend much time in negotiations, nor hold long conferences with my subalterns.—He professed himself at my devotion ;—and immediately vanished in search of apartments.

June 9th.

Returned at twelve this morning, with the joyful tidings, that he had succeeded beyond expectation ; which he confirmed by producing the key of a ready furnished house. Having satisfied myself that FREEMAN was awake, and that my senses were not influenced by the delusive suggestions of a dream, I took leave of my host, and was set down in a few minutes at my *botel*.—Went through the apartments,—found but a scanty provision of furniture ;—was satisfied, however, upon the whole.—Returned to the drawing room ;—ordered FREEMAN to be seated ; meaning to consult with him on our future proceedings.

The *King*. “ Well, FREEMAN, what is to be done next ? ”

Freeman. “ I am better qualified, Sir, to execute your commands, than to give advice ; but, I suppose proper servants must be provided. ”

The *King*. "That's the point on which I
 " meant to consult you ; it is, therefore, proper
 " you should know that my finances will not
 " admit of an expensive establishment. JEWISH
 " women, master FREEMAN, are fitted by educa-
 " tion, and the doctrines of the Synagogue, to
 " a state of subjection ; and a JEW's wife, in the
 " estimation of JEWS is literally the servant of
 " her husband.—My household must be formed
 " upon an œconomical plan ; and the *conveni-*
 " *ences* of a wife are so few, that no opportu-
 " nity of applying them should be lost.—Need
 " I be more explicit ?

Freeman. " No Sir ! "

The *King*, " There is nothing like a right
 " understanding ; but we must not determine
 " too hastily.—My *wife* might certainly do ;
 " but then,—the children ;—If I send them to
 " the parish, old LARA will proclaim my repro-
 " bation from Dan to Beersheba.—If I bring
 " them home, there will be no peace in Israel ;—
 " what's to be done ? "

Freeman. " Surely, Sir, you would not send
 " the pretty creatures to the parish !

The *King*, " Why not ? can you propose any
 " thing better ? Will the *Foundling Hospital*
 " take them ? "

Freeman, "I dont know, Sir."

The *King*, "I perceive, Tom, you are a poor
 " chicken-hearted simpleton. But give me
 " your hand, you shall be humoured. The
 " material concern at present, is to provide for
 " our immediate wants, which I leave to you.
 " —We meet here at seven."

This FREEMAN is a hypocrite ; or, there are principles and affections in human nature, to which my mind is an utter stranger:—how should *he* otherwise have indicated solicitude, or expressed a sentiment of concern, for a pack of brats, whose welfare had never interested *my* affections, or moved a fibre of *my* heart ?

I have now another scene of hypocrisy to go through, in which, I must be myself the chief actor.—Many things of value were preserved from the sheriff's myrmidons, in the doleful catastrophe of my adventures in *Love Lane*, which are now in DEBORAH's possession.—I think they will be safer in my hands. There are some necessary family articles among them that are not supplied in a ready furnished house. This circumstance gives a fair pretence for the application ; and may favour my obtaining that part of them at least.

Many women in DEBORAH's situation might indeed be refractory, and set me at defiance; for nothing is more apt to stir up the devil in a woman than neglect. But DEBORAH is such a simple, doting, dawdling sort of a body, that if I can support but for half an hour the affectation of attachment; and play off a little of that fascinating softness of manner, which I have found to be irresistable in my negotiations, and intercourse with the sex;—she will say, do, or swear whatever I shall dictate.

A tete a tete with my loving help-mate hath formed her to my purpose; and put me in the best humour imaginable. Whatever remained in her hands of my wrecked fortune, is safely lodged in Lamb's Conduit Street. And if no evil spirit interposes, she will soon be prepared to depart from her father's house, as his fore-fathers departed from the land of Egypt. And in the article of spoils, it is of very little consequence in my opinion, whether they are taken from an EGYPTIAN or a JEW.

June 11th.

Took my mother from the invalid house, on the express condition of being re-admitted, if

she fall sick, or be otherwise troublesome,—she will do as well in the nursery, as any other servant. A saving in her weekly allowance of three shillings for tea, sugar, and cordials, which I have generously given her these seven years, will reduce the expence of keeping her, to a mere trifle.

Another benefit arising from this arrangement, is the credit of filial piety ; which, for aught I know, may be as good a covering for a multitude of sins, as charity. Few instances occur in my practice, in which my interest, and my credit so happily unite.

The arrival of DEBORAH, hath filled the female departments of my household. DEBORAH for a while, must forget that she is the wife of a KING.

This being the first SABBATH of my liberation, the remainder of it shall be devoted to a communication with my Familiar.



THE enlargement of my ideas, and the invigoration of my inventive faculties, are the sensible and constant effects of a devout invocation of my DÆMON.

Opportunities of executing great designs, do not often occur at this season of the year in *London*.—But, much may be done in the way of preparation, for a winter campaign. *Clerks*, —*agents*, —*decoy-ducks*, —and a solicitor or two of *character* may be retained :—Commercial treaties with the *Parkers*, *Greensill*, and *Juda Levi* be renewed :—a communication opened with *Roundtree*, *Teasdale*, &c. &c. for the purpose of mutual information, and *in critical cases* to facilitate for each other the *appropriation* of *negotiable securities*,—BY COMPLICATING THE CHANNELS OF CIRCULATION.

Striplings of genteel appearance may likewise be fitted out, on my *unique* plan, to form intimacies with shopmen and apprentices ; from whom the tempers, circumstances, and characters of their masters may be known. An extensive field for *intuitive speculation* being thus opened, and a list of *fit subjects* of *experiment* procured ;

my address or discernment must fail me strangely, if I miss my aim, or am ever baffled, by "taking the wrong sow by the ear."

I never reconnoitre by proxy, nor commence a negotiation without examining the phiz, and learning the ruling folly of my *negotiant*: and experience hath taught me that no traits of character are more favorable to my operations in the *Swindling line* than—*affectation of gentility*;—*a propensity to extortion*,—and *a conceit of address in the art of forcing goods on a customer*:—by humouring these absurdities I have frequently emptied a man's warehouse without risking a *false pretence*; or subjecting myself to any claim of payment that might not (with the assistance of my friend PRIDDLE) be *legally* resisted.—Tradesmen of this description are so numerous, that the Strand, Fleet Street, and Cheapside, will afford sufficient exercise to my talents; and support a safe and productive trade; in spite of the public spirited efforts of the GUARDIANS OF TRADE, or the vigilance of their Secretary Foss.

In the credit and emolument of *this art*, I have nothing to apprehend from competition;—for being neither formed by *rule*, nor

practiced by *system*, it is not liable to imitation.—But, though the principle on which its success depends, be therefore unattainable by the common herd of sharpers;—and too philosophic to be applied in the systematic operations of the higher order of Chevaliers d'industrie; its transcendent efficacy hath been so clearly demonstrated in *my practice*,—and the faculty of applying it is so universally understood to be peculiarly my own : that *pilferers* and *free-booters* do me *homage*, and SWINDLERS hail me *their KING*.

Titles which denote superlative talents, *in whatever sense they apply* are objects of my desire : and nothing is more grateful to me than the effusions of wonder and admiration (though sometimes *coarsely* expressed) with which my ears are saluted in my perambulations through the metropolis.—I inherit this ambition from my father, who was certainly a great man in *his way* : and (if my tutelar DÆMON, had not otherwise determined), I should probably have attained eminence, and notoriety by the same means.' *He* assumed the title of SULTAN;—wore the Turkish habit,—and procured a handsome maintenance by supplying the coffee-house loungers from Cornhill to Charing-cross with cane-strings, c—d—ms, sealing wax, and bawdy

books.—The profits of the day were frequently doubled by my attending him with *lollipops* and *elecompane*, (the manufactures of my mother;) which never failed of a good market among the rabble that every where assembled round the SULTAN.

June 12th.

Appointed PRIDDLE * my *Attorney*, and ROBINSON † my *Solicitor general*.

Determined to recommence my mercantile negotiations.—the slackness of a summer trade has a wonderful effect in facilitating my dealings with gentlemen whose *shops* are better furnished than their *beads*.—A warehouse must be provided. Barge-yard is a good situation for city business :---rather too near the MANSION HOUSE :—city magistrates are not comatable.

* A gentleman who (*at that time*) excelled all others of his profession in training witnesses.—He was reckoned the most successful *defendant's* solicitor that ever practised at the Old Bailey- and was therefore stiled the NEWGATE ORACLE.

† An attorney of Gray's Inn, to whom the King did the honour to article himself in the year 1778,—to be in readiness for admission, if at any future period it should suit his purpose to practice as an attorney. The particular qualities which recommended this gentleman to his notice will be seen hereafter.

—will consult FREEMAN;—but nothing *can* be done in stile without a warehouse.

To drive the nail that will go, is a maxim of prudence, against which I seldom transgress. Yet true it is, I have suffered four days to pass without paying my respects to Solomon's strong box.—Solomon has good reason to think me numbered among the dead.

June 23d.

Dispatched Freeman in search of a warehouse.—paid an early visit to Solomon.—A noise in the adjoining room prevented any conversation on business,—whispered him to come in the evening to Lamb's Conduit Street, gave him a direction, and took my leave:—did not forget to *press* his bringiug with him the contents of his strong box.

Called on ARMSTRONG in my way home.—A substantial sheriff's officer is as important to my business as a trading justice. I do not mean to offend Mr. Armstrong by the most distant insinuation that a trading justice is in any respect his equal. Nothing so perfectly disposes a young man to my purposes, as a few day's meditation in a spunging house.—A *grated win-*

dow affords the best light imaginable for the examination of a Jew's terms of accommodation.—Immediate liberation is an irresistible bait.—Armstrong never refused my *undertaking*, nor ever suffered by his confidence. I keep my word with a sheriff's officer for the same reason that I break it with most other folks;—*because it serves my interest*.—This method of *catching PIGEONS* is of all others the best; and no other method of *securing* them is so effectual.—The undertaking which gives a power to *liberate*, gives a power likewise to *surrender*; it operates therefore (with a little alteration in the nature of the confinement) as a mere transfer of the captive, from the officer's custody to mine. This advantage being obtained,—an account of his reversionary claims,—his expectancies, and *present* incomes is generally sufficient to his undoing; for the endurance of present inconvenience to avoid future evil, is an exertion of prudence, to which juvenile fortitude, under such circumstances, is seldom equal.

My visit to ARMSTRONG being chiefly complimentary, our conversation turned naturally upon the business of his office.—He told me that a young clergyman whom he wished to release was detained in his house for a paltry debt of twelve pounds.—I asked if I could be of any

service? He replied, yes ; and leading me into the next room, introduced me to the gentleman, —told him I desired the favour of his company to dinner,—and actually discharged him without further ceremony ; leaving to me the credit of his liberation.

My reception of this compliment was not I believe very gracious, for as my family is not in a condition to entertain company ; nor much good to be expected from my new acquaintance ; I had rather have been without it.—Was soon relieved from my embarrassment.—Mr. D--b--r being *usher* to an academy, and *curate* of a parish at a small distance from town, thought it necessary to make as early an appearance as possible ;—desired, therefore, (*when we got into the street*), to be excused for the present, promised to see me in a day or two, and left me heartily pleased at being so well rid of him.

The brightest ideas are sometimes suggested to my imagination by the most trifling occurrences.

My deficiency in the article of school learning is an everlasting subject of regret, and, not unfrequently, the cause of great mortification.—

I have besides an unconquerable desire *to be thought a man of letters*.—An usber to an academy must be qualified to instruct me in the rudiments of education, and perhaps to give me such a smattering of learning as may at least hide my deficiencies.—I will open myself to Mr. D--b--r.

Deborah hath presumed in violation of conjugal submission to hire a servant without consulting me. N. B. Passive obedience and non-resistance to be inculcated by a curtain lecture.

Solomon kept his appointment.—I am almost inclined to envy Solomon the *magnetic* virtue of his fingers ; and to regret that I was intimidated, when very young, from pursuing his occupation ; for being witness to the *untimely end* of my instructor, (*occasioned by a severe ducking*), I was seized with an *Hydrophobia* which has *occasionally* affected me ever since ; and would certainly prevent my attaining to any degree of excellence in the ART of DIVING. *

Solomon has really collected a very pretty assortment of *Bijouteries*. The addition of a

* The Cant term for picking pockets.

few articles might equip a JEW's box for a country expedition, and give me a tollerable prospect of retrieving my fortune *in an honest way*.—*Appropos*.—Some method of converting them into a more negotiable commodity, must be thought of.—No person in my recollection is more fit for this purpose than my SOLICITOR GENERAL. The fees of brokerage will accord mightily with the state of his finances; and the nature of his connection is particularly favourable to any kind of contraband *negociation*.

ROBINSON hath certainly some very useful properties, but must not be entrusted with the power of doing mischief, or destroying any body but himself: for though *naturally* abject, he assumes in *confidential business*, a significant air of importance, which has sometimes alarmed me. And (though the rascal is *more* unprincipled, if possible, than my ATTORNEY GENERAL) hath frequently obliged me to quiet his affected scruples with an extraordinary *douceur*. These are liberties inconsistent with the rules of my government, and shall never be exercised with impunity by any of my subjects, while I am KING.

Communicated my thoughts on the subject of education, to Mr. D—B—R, and acquainted him

with my desire to become his pupil.—He commended the modesty and good sense which determined me to consult him;—assured me there is nothing singular in my case; and engaged, that in a very short time, I shall as greatly surpass the *wiseacres* who resort to me,—in *literary accomplishments*,—as I already excel them in *natural sagacity* and *ingenuity*.—Six months application on his plan of instruction will give me, it seems, a sufficient knowledge of the Latin tongue,—of history,—natural philosophy, and logic, to answer all the purposes of a *gentleman*.—Shall commence my literary career as soon as the necessary preparations are completed.

N. B. A folio common place book, *Morocco binding*, to be ordered immediately for my study; an octavo ditto for the pocket, with suitable implements for writing.

This conference with my reverend Preceptor, hath elevated my imagination, opened new prospects,—and caused a total revolution in the sentiments and aspirations of my mind.

June 24th.

FREEMAN arrived from his city expedition.

The King. "Your long face, Mr. FREEMAN, tells me you have not succeeded."

Freeman. "My countenance, Sir, speaks the truth."

The King. "I had much rather it lied, but give me an account of your proceedings."

Freeman. "My first enquiry as you ordered, was in *Barge Yard*, where a large warehouse with an office adjoining is to be let. Mr. REEVES the proprietor, being out of town, I could learn no particulars."

The King. "I am not bigotted to *Barge Yard*:—my auctioneer you know lives there, which was my only motive for naming it. But didn't you enquire further?"

Freeman. "Yes, Sir, in every direction for a mile round change, *excepting the neighbourhood of Love Lane.*"

The King. "That, master FREEMAN, was a very proper exception: but saw you nothing that would do for the present?"

Freeman. "Oh, yes Sir, fifty places."

The King. "And engaged none?"

Freeman. "None Sir."

The King. "Why?"

Freeman. "I could as easily get you elected Lord Mayor of London, as persuade any person in the city to trust you with a cobbler's stall. *The city, Sir, wont do.* Those who

“ have premises to let, will know *for whom*, and
 “ for *what purposes* they are intended. And your
 “ name, you know, is posted in the directory of
 “ Mr. what d’ye call him, the attorney in Goff
 “ Square*.—I had yesterday so nearly bargained
 “ with Mr. BILLET, for his blanket warehouse, in
 “ St. Mary Axe, that the price was agreed upon,
 “ and a memorandum drawn;—but your name
 “ being given, he declared off; and to the great
 “ diversion of his servants, referred me to Mr.
 “ AKERMAN † of the Old Bailey, who would ac-
 “ commodate you (he said) *more suitably* than
 “ any man in England. And when I mentioned
 “ you this morning, at WILSON’s the Packer,
 “ in Birchin Lane, who has a warehouse to
 “ let; his clerks being unacquainted with your
 “ *person*, concluded I had named myself;
 “ and I should certainly have been rough-
 “ ly handled, if a Thames Street carman, had
 “ not assured the ruffians who had hold of me,
 “ that I was not THE NOTED SWINDLER; but
 “ honest TOM FREEMAN of the Custom House.”

The King. “ Every body has enemies, Mr.
 FREEMAN.”

* Mr. Foss, Secretary to the Society to whom these
 memoirs are dedicated.

† The keeper of Newgate.

Freeman. "But you seem, Sir, to have nothing else."

The King. "A truce if you please with your reflections; and if you have nothing further to communicate, you may leave me till the morning; when I shall expect you with your friend ROBINSON."—Exit FREEMAN.

It is really abominable, that a man may not be possessed of superior genius, talents, or accomplishments, without exciting *envy* on the one hand, and *ill will* on the other. Yet, such is the lot of eminence: and I should discredit the counsels of my FAMILIAR, if my spirit were daunted with the bugbears that have scared FREEMAN.—"The city, he says, wont do."—I will convince the snivelling blockhead, that *the city shall do*.—By varying the mode of application, the premises in Barge Yard may yet be had.—I don't much like being thrown into the back ground, *when there is no danger to be encountered*;—but "necessity has no law."—FREEMAN shall treat in his *own name*.

June 26th.

The acquisition of a little consequence, is a wonderful soother in cases of mortification.—FREEMAN is himself again. The hopes of retrieving his credit as a negotiator, hath light-

enced his recollection of the rebuffs he encountered in his last expedition.—Undertakes to procure a recommendation, and has no doubt of success.

July 1st.

Mr. D—E—R attended me for the first time in his preceptorial capacity,—gave me a set of exercises in Latin and English, consisting of several hundred mottos,—sententious sayings, and bon mots of eminent persons,—maxims,—adages, &c. adapted to general topics of conversation.

Having taught me to pronounce some of these sentences correctly *in Latin*; he directed me to transcribe them into my pocket common place book, and commit them to memory for occasional use.—I so greatly exceeded his expectations in the performance of this exercise, that he doubted my being so entirely ignorant, as I professed to be of the Latin language. Being assured that I had really told him the truth; he said, no instance had occurred in his practice, of a memory so retentive, or an ear so exquisitely delicate as mine must be;—and congratulated himself on the fortunate acquisition of a pupil, whose docible faculties are so peculiarly fitted to exemplify, and recommend his method of instructing *grown gentlemen* in the

Latin tongue.—Mr. D—B—R I perceive, is quick-sighted; and has a mighty pretty manner of encouraging his pupils.—Will very shortly repeat his visit.

July 3d.

The tide of good fortune flows in upon me from every channel.—FREEMAN has taken possession of the warehouse.—The indefatigable SOLOMON rises daily in my *estimation*:—and my *Solicitor General* hath converted the contraband contents of my repository into *sterling* property.

July 4th.

Entertained my confederates, and celebrated our recent successes, with grateful PÆANS to my GUARDIAN DEMON, and plentiful libations to IMMORTAL HERMES*.

The EDITOR is here obliged to proceed narratively, for the reasons premised in his preface, but repeats his assurance, that he will adhere strictly to the obvious and indubitable meaning of *the writer*, and confine himself as much as possible, to the precise words in which his memorandums and confessions are expressed.

The journal from this time to the beginning

* The God of thieves.

of the next year, is but little more than a register of petty depredations, which afforded no exercise to the super-eminent abilities of the KING. They served, however, to keep his retainers in practice, and supplied means of temporary subsistence. The augmentation of his corps, which now became necessary, was confided to his Solicitor General, whose acquaintance with the haunts of discarded clerks, —uncertificated Bankrupts,—and *outcast* practitioners of his own profession, enabled him to compleat the establishment with expert and tractable recruits, without the personal interference of his *superior*. The KING was indeed so entirely devoted to literary studies during the six months appropriated to his education; that his passions and propensities seem to have been under a total suspension to every other object: for the memorandums of that period record no display of his resistless valour in combat; or his bewitching influence in affairs of love: which appear in the sequel of his journal, to be his favourite themes of ostentation, and the properties, to which, *in spite of nature*, he most tenaciously pretends.

That his proficiency in the sort of learning which employed his study, was at least equal to the application he bestowed, may be concluded from the result.

He acquired (as his journal states) a correct pronounciation of the Latin exercises compiled by his preceptor,—committed them to memory;—and long before the expiration of the allotted period, was so well qualified to apply them occasionally with the aid of his English translation, that many of his young clients conceived high notions of his classical erudition.

He could repeat the numerous *aphorisms*, and was an adept in the surprising *experiments* of **HOOPER'S RATIONAL RECREATIONS**: in which the arts of *juggling* are made plain; and the principles of natural philosophy so intelligibly exemplified, as to require no scientific experience, nor much capacity to comprehend or apply them. And in the mere performance of these experiments, it may be difficult to distinguish the superficial pretender, from the man of real science.

Success is the best incentive to perseverance in all human pursuits.

Encouraged by the extraordinary effect of his first efforts, he resolved to proceed, and by further exertions of diligence, to manifest the infinite superiority of his Preceptor's plan of

education, to that of any pedagogue, or pupil hunter (numerous as they are) within the bills of mortality.

A knowledge of HISTORY stands next on the list of his intended acquirements; and it must be acknowledged, that his learned Preceptor provided as properly for his edification in that branch of learning, as for his instruction in the preceding subjects of his study.—He procured for him THE TABLET of MEMORY.—A compilation from which *grown gentlemen* may acquire a competent knowledge of History,—without loss of time,—the druggery of reading,—or the expence of books:—and, if his journal may be credited, the multifarious contents of that *copious compendium*, became *in ten days*, 'as familiar to him as HOOPER's *rational recreations*, or the Latin exercises of Mr. D—B—R.

He had proceeded so far in Logic, as to have learnt the *terms*; to perceive its force and efficacy in *the art of reasoning*; and to have attained great expertness in the SOPHISTICAL application of it;—when a circumstance intervened, which gave a different turn to his thoughts, and occasioned for the present a considerable abatement in his appetite for literature.

January 25th.

His landlord being desired on some trifling occasion to attend him, was struck with astonishment and indignation on perceiving the KING to be his tenant;—and without the usual ceremony of a notice, or assigning any reason for so uncourteous a proceeding, demanded the immediate surrender of his house.—Whether he obtained it peaceably or not, is a matter upon which the journal is silent: but that he gained immediate possession is certain: for the KING was on the following day as completely settled in a second floor at Charing Cross, as if he had foreseen, and been prepared for a sudden decampment.

That the attack, however, was *unexpected*,—and, that it originated in something of an earlier date, than the commencement of these memoirs, seems most probable; for “FREEMAN’s falling in with Mr. H——L, is remarked by the KING as an event which nothing but *fate*, or the caprice of his *familiar* could have produced:” and having had no communication with his landlord in treating for the house, or payment of rent, which were transacted by FREEMAN; their situation with each other might till then

have been unknown to both.—But whatever may be conjectured from this adventure, it cannot be doubted that both landlord and tenant had good reasons for their respective conduct.

The facility and expedition with which his removal was accomplished, do credit to his quickness of thought:—he chose, perhaps, the *only* situation in which he could possibly have secured a retreat: for the proprietors of houses within the verge of the court being accustomed to emergent applications; and concluding generally, that they are resorted to for protection from arrests only, are no *otherwise concerned* about the persons they take in, than to be assured they will pay their way: and this enquiry being anticipated by a month's payment in advance, he was admitted to possession, *and no question asked*.—The apartment, being insufficient to contain the family, his first care (to the honour of his filial and paternal feelings) was to replace his mother in the *Jew's invalid house*, from whence he had taken her; and to bestow his children in the same hospitable asylum as pensioners.

The memorandums of occurrences that immediately follow this event, being more general and perspicuous than those of the preceding six months. The EDITOR presents them to the reader as they stand in the manuscript.

January 27th.

Received FREEMAN and ROBINSON for the first time at my new habitation.—Persuaded them that *Lamb's Conduit Street* being too remote from the principal scenes of our operations, my removal to a more central situation could not prudently be delayed; and that knowing their consideration for me, I had avoided mentioning my intention, lest they should oppose such a sacrifice of my own convenience to their interest.

How glibly things go down with a little flattery!—proper compliments having passed, we proceeded (without any appearance of their doubting me) to the consideration of business.

To remove, or, at least, *alleviate* the inconvenience and mortification of my expulsion from *Lamb's Conduit Street*; without seeming inconsistent, or disclosing more than I chose to communicate, was the chief object of my

concern.—I had no doubt but ROBINSON'S chambers in *Gray's Inn*, from the little use he made of them, were rather an incumbrance, than a convenience: but could not under the circumstances of the moment, reconcile my pride to a direct application on the subject.—I hinted, therefore, that my apartments, though compleatly suited to *some* of the purposes before us, were ill adapted to others;—that offers of *pecuniary* accommodation (for instance) would come with an ill grace from the occupier of a *second floor in the verge of the court*;—and condescendingly submitted to them, whether a *house* conveniently situated for that business should not be provided;—or a *set of chambers* (which I should prefer) *in any of the Inns of court*?—Was not deceived in my expectation that ROBINSON would seize the opportunity to get rid of his.—Terms were proposed,—acceded to, and immediately executed to our mutual satisfaction.

Agreed unanimously, that *houses* or *handsome* apartments in various parts of the town, are *essential* to a plan of depredation so general in its objects, and so extensive in its application;—that a suitable residence shall be taken for me, as soon as the means of furnishing it are *levied*;

and that *Gray's Inn* in the mean time be my chief post.—Communicated to them the advertisement with which I mean to commence my operations in that quarter.

Advertisement.—"A CONVEYANCER, whose
 " ample fortune and extensive connections, enable him to supply sums to any amount on
 " the shortest notice;—being actuated by the
 " purest sentiments of disinterested philanthropy;—hath resolved to devote a large
 " portion of his time, his influence, and his
 " wealth, to the relief of distress;—the alleviation of misfortune;—and the liberal cherishment of genius, learning, and industry.

" To effectuate this benevolent design, he
 " will attend personally, on *tuesdays, thursdays,*
 " and *saturdays*, from twelve to three, at his
 " chambers, No. 2, in *Gray's Inn Square*;
 " where applications on any *kind, or degree* of
 " pecuniary embarrassment will be respectfully
 " received: and he has the heart-felt satisfaction to announce that his undertaking is so
 " powerfully patronized and supported, as to
 " make it *extremely* improbable that *any* case can
 " arise, in which a *reliance on his services* will fail
 " of its *intended* effect."

The title of CONVEYANCER was so well adapted, so perfectly characteristic, that I thought the rascals would never have ceased laughing.—My *Solicitor General* protested that I beat CHRISTIE hollow at an advertisement; and that PRIDDLE himself could not have guarded it more effectually against legal objection.—Dispatched him with directions to get it inserted in the Morning Post, and two other papers, to-morrow, or the next day: and to change the address of my old advertisement, from *Lamb's Conduit Street*, to No. 16, *Charing Cross*.

January 31st

Settled monthly account with FREEMAN.—miserably defective!—received only forty pounds and four pence, *net profit* by the sales in *Barge Yard*, from the twenty-fifth of December to this day!—will try the effect of looking more into that business myself.

SOLOMON is at present my sheet anchor.—His last prize at the Opera was capital.—A lady's gold snuff box, with a miniature richly set, and a large gold tooth-pick case.—SOLOMON is sufficiently sensible, that keeping *such articles* in his custody, may lead to a discovery; and resigns them freely enough.—But never brings

forward the *guineas* or *bank notes*.—I have frequently suggested (without his seeming to comprehend me), that he cannot be too expeditious in destroying the *purses* or *pocket books* that fall into his hands ;—and hinted when I last saw him, that a *larger sum of money* than he can account for, or may be reasonably supposed to have acquired *bonestly*, would, in case of accident, be as dangerous to his safety as the possession of any *definable* article whatever : my observation he said, was very just ; and his having been always of the same opinion, had prevented his bringing our matters as yet to any account.—I had no *conception* that he could have *parry'd* so *bome a thrust* ; much less have *retorted* so adroitly.—Did not recollect till now that I had not seen him since this rencountre, which happened seven or eight days ago.—Will beat up his quarters in the morning.—

Went to the play,—supped at the Globe in my way home,—dropped into the same box with Mr. G— —w, whose appetite was in the act of revenging its *disappointment of a dinner*, on a delicious rump steak and oyster sauce.

He was just come from a debating society, at the Mitre in Fleet Street, where they give no

suppers (as at Carlisle-house and the Forum), but bestow half a crown upon such speakers as will accept it to provide suppers for themselves. —Having learnt his situation, and finding him a pleasant, conversable young man, though horribly conceited; I ordered a bottle of Sherry, invited him to partake of it, and at parting, took upon me the payment of the bill:—engaged him to dinner the next day.

February 1st.

Made a visit to TEASEDALE, informed him I was become his neighbour; and having given him a card, was taking leave, when his servant told him Mr. CREAGH was in the next room.—This gentleman's business said he doesn't suit *me*; but I think he is a client worth *your* attention. I understand he has a good estate in the county of Cork, and has hitherto kept within bounds;—but the truth is, I have some discouraging prejudices concerning the gentlemen of that country which I can't conquer.—Shall I send him to you?—consented to see him:—engaged to be at home for that purpose at one.

Went from thence to Archer Street,—SOLOMON was out.—Left a note announcing my removal, and desired him to call as soon as possible.

Met GILLY MAHON, the best Irish intelligencer in Great Britain.—Went with him to the CANNON;—learnt the birth, parentage, and education of Mr. CREAGH, and (what more concerned me) the situation and value of his estate.—Having served my purpose, I left GILLY, and hastened to my appointment.—My client had been some time arrived.

Mr. Creagh. “ I wait on you, Sir, from Mr. TEASDALE, who I believe has had the goodness to prepare you for this visit.”

The King. “ And give me leave, Sir, to add, “ —hath interested me so warmly in your “ affairs, that whatever I can do, you may command.—Mr. TEASEDALE, I presume, has explained to you the different methods by which “ loans to supply sudden exigences are negotiated; “ and I dare say has apprized you, that scarcely “ any sum can at *this time* be raised but on terms “ to which I cannot advise you to submit: for the “ American war has so drained the country of “ specie, that, excepting among the Bankers and “ a few rich individuals, there are no guineas “ in circulation. Money may doubtless be “ procured from *them*; but unless your terms “ are more beneficial than their speculations in “ government securities, (by which they can

“ make without risk, from seventeen to twenty
 “ per cent), you may as well address yourself
 “ to the pump at Aldgate. But I humbly beg
 “ pardon for presuming to hazard a supposition
 “ concerning the nature of your business, in
 “ which, perhaps, I am very distant from the
 “ mark.”

Mr. Creagh. “ You are perfectly right in your
 “ supposition: and if, by any means, you can
 “ procure me three hundred pounds (which shall
 “ punctually be repaid in August), you will
 “ render me an essential service. The occa-
 “ sion is urgent. *Terms*, therefore, must
 “ be no impediment. Mr. STACKPOLE (who is
 “ now in town), or Mr. HICKY of *St. Albans's*
 “ *Street*, will answer any enquiries that may be
 “ thought necessary respecting my character
 “ or responsibility.”

The King. “ I have too much faith Sir in
 “ Physiognomy, to think any enquiry necessary.
 “ —But I am really distressed at the unconsci-
 “ onable loss you will sustain in the negociation.
 “ To net *three* hundred pounds, whether by notes
 “ or annuity, you must raise a much larger
 “ sum. I will state the *present* and *eventual*
 “ expence of both, that you may choose either
 “ or neither, as you please.”

THE IMMEDIATE AND EVENTUAL
EXPENCE OF RAISING
300 POUND FOR SIX MONTHS
BY ANNUITY.

	£.	s.	d.
Writings - - -	31	10	0
Commission - -	31	10	0
Incidental expences -	6	6	0
Solicitor's clerk - -	1	1	0
	£	70	7 0

To this must be added *six months*
annuity, and *and one years purchase*
on the redemption.

THE EXPENCE AND EVENTUAL
LOSS IN RAISING 300 POUNDS
HALF GOODS, HALF MONEY,
FOR SIX MONTHS BY NOTES.

	£.	s.	d.
Commission - - -	22	10	0
Losses on sale of the goods at 25 per Cent -	75	0	0
Expences of Sale -	15	0	0
Interest - - -	7	10	0
Warehouse Room -	1	10	0
	£	121	10 0

N. B. The second article is
stated at a very low estimate.

Mr. Creagh. "There is no subject of deliberation in these statements."

The King. "True, Sir, if the notes can be negotiated at six months; but it *may* be necessary to make them payable at a shorter date."

Mr. Creagh. "That cannot be,—for having named the earliest time at which I can with certainty engage to pay them; I will not purchase a *mere respite* of inconvenience, at the expence of my credit."

The King. "I honour your principle and a

“ moments patience would have convinced you,
 “ that I am as solicitous to preserve the one, as
 “ to remove the other. You have only to give
 “ me two notes for four hundred guineas each,
 “ at three months,—and two others of the same
 “ value at seven months. When the former
 “ become due, they shall be replaced with the
 “ latter; which brings the *actual repayment* of
 “ the sum raised to your own time,—and you
 “ will consequently be supplied with the *full*
 “ sum you want.”

“ This operation, will, indeed, subject you to
 “ an imposition of five per cent on the *renewal*,
 “ (as we call it); from which I cannot protect
 “ you, without taking more time in the nego-
 “ tiation, than the expedition you require will
 “ allow. But this addition of twenty pounds to
 “ the expence before stated, will still leave a bal-
 “ lance in favour of raising *temporary* supplies
 “ by notes; *which I always prefer to annuities.*”

“ You are now competent Sir, (if I have spoken
 “ intelligibly), to judge for yourself; and if you
 “ still persist in your purpose, it will not be-
 “ come me to remonstrate further, or to delay
 “ executing your commands.”

Mr. Creagh. “ I perfectly comprehend you;
 “ and am extremely pleased with the fairness and
 “ liberality of your conduct: but circumstances

“(which I cannot *now* communicate, will prevent my profiting by the frank and candid explanation you have given. The business must at all events, proceed in the way you have stated.—But how soon can it be compleated.

The King. “In a day or two,—if the bills are drawn immediately.

Mr. Creagh. “Instruct me in the form, and no time shall be lost on that account.—* * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *.—These Sir, are the first notes I have ever drawn.

The King. “And very prettily you have performed for a maiden essay.—My clients, indeed, are *generally* so well instructed by a *first lesson*, that they seldom have occasion to take a second.

Mr. Creagh. “Shall I see you to-morrow?”

The King. “The final settlement of the *Budget* requires my attendance on the Minister to-morrow; but I will certainly wait on you the next day.” Exit Mr. CREAGH.

Brother TEASDALE is more nice than wise, and will never emerge from his hole in Scotland Yard, if he suffers pigeons like this to escape him. I dont know any right a money-

monger has to indulge prejudices, or concern himself about principle.—If left to my choice, I would rather transact business with *knaves*, (whether English or Irish), than your *men of honour*; for they can't outwit me:—but their *attempting* it, as they commonly do, is a fair salvo to my conscience for *making the most of them*: and when I happen to negotiate for the lender,—*such borrowers* are always ready to coalesce with me in any stratagem to chouse my client. My business, indeed, would soon be at a stand without a numerous corps of *gentlemen performers* to assist in the execution of my plans.

N. B. Must not lose the opportunity of enlisting JACK AN—R—N. The young rascal has not been long out of his clerkship, and and though trained in the office of what is called an honest attorney, possesses principles and accomplishments that would entitle him to a precedency among the most docile and tractable of my own pupils. JACK is indubitably a *rara avis*,—a *Lusus Diaboli*, compleatly fitted by nature and education, to fill the honourable post of *premier commis* in my office. The saucy dog refused to give his name, or to communicate his business to the clerks, when he

came to solicit employment in my service: and having frequently applied without obtaining an audience, was at last announced to me as the handsome gentleman who had called so often. There was something indeed so impressive in his figure, that I actually believed him for five minutes, (notwithstanding my skill in phisiognomy), to be a sprig of fashion, who came to be instructed in the road to ruin.

I have strange forebodings respecting SOLOMON. His disposition to remonstrate must be checked, but how to effect it is the question. I cannot brook his hints about coming to an account; they are an insult to the prerogative I always exercise; and indicate a preference of his own interest to mine; which I never forgive in any man on whom I can take a *safe* or *secret* revenge. He certainly fights shy, but I'll soon bring him to a sense of his duty.

Was at the expence of giving G— —w a good dinner, without seeing any way of turning him to account:—his impudence might indeed be a valuable qualification in some branches of my business; but he is such a compound of pedantry and puppyism, that I fear 'twill cost me

more trouble to *break him in*, than his services will be worth.

It may be prudent, however, to keep on terms with him, as he means when called to the Bar, to start at the Old Bailey; where his talents may be of use to me, or my satellites: and as no man hath greater or more frequent occasion for a *friend in court*, than I have; a little hospitality at present, if he has any gratitude, may not be thrown away. I have no doubt, however, of repaying myself in some way or other.

He casually mentioned a private institution which he and a few other law students had commenced, for their mutual improvement in eloquence and disputation.—A thousand ideas of advantage from a connection with the members of such a society, instantly crowding upon my imagination; I expressed my approbation of it in a *manner* which drew from him an offer to set me down as a member; but said it must be done immediately, for otherwise my admission would be exposed to some hazard; as the addition of two members to their present list, would compleat the number, beyond which the characters of all future candidates must undergo a critical investigation; and in the ordeal of

a ballot be liable to perpetual exclusion by a single black ball. "A burnt child naturally dreads the fire." I had too often experienced the disgrace of being black-balled, to expose myself to the event of a ballot, where the pretensions of a candidate are determined by his character; and therefore, (though not insensible to the sarcasm conveyed in his intimation), suppressed my resentment for the present; and most cordially accepted his offer to introduce me, at the next meeting of the society, to his brother SOPHS.

February 14th.

Negotiated two of CREAGH's bills with JACKSON of *Snow Hill*.—That fellow has no conscience.—He would not produce a guinea, without having one bill to cash the other.—Supplied CREAGH with twenty guineas:—if he nets another twenty for the other two, he may thank his stars that he fell into my hands.—TEASDALE would have sacked the whole.

February 19th.

I was last night at ASTLEY's,—sat in the same box with a young lady, whose expressive countenance acted too forcibly on my sensibility to

allow me a moment's attention to the entertainment. I had the satisfaction, however, to observe that my captivating powers had their usual effect. The attractive allurements which I have always found to be irresistible, effectually served me on the present occasion:—before the curtain dropp'd, I might have said like CÆSAR, “*I came, I saw, I conquered.*”—She permitted me to attend her home.

My imagination having fixed her dwelling in the principal cantonement of the Cyprian corps, I directed the coachman towards Marybone. At the end of *Brook Street*, she hastily pulled the check-string, and desired to be set down in *Hanover Square*. I now concluded we must soon separate; and employed the few minutes that intervened, in protestations, intreaties, and the common place nonsense, which no woman I ever attempted could resist.—When the coachman stopped, she told me her name was MACKAY; that she was niece to the gentleman of that name, who had made so conspicuous a figure in the concluding scene of lord PIGOT's adventures in India: and proposed to introduce me the next morning to her uncle. We agreed that Mr. MACKAY should be prepared to re-

ceive me, and that I should immediately declare myself a candidate for her affections.

I have never met with an adventure so like a dream.—Yet, experience hath taught me, that *no effect of personal beauty and accomplishments* on the senses of a woman, should be a subject of doubt or surprize *.

A person who subscribes himself R. POTTS, hath proposed a *lottery speculation*;—refers for particulars concerning *himself*, and his *project*, to Mr. JAMES PIGGERSGIL, the brother of my worthy colleague in the transactions of *Love Lane*.—JEMMY's character is expressed in ten words;—he's a more desperate and unprincipled varlet than his brother. A pretty tollerable judgement, therefore, may be formed

* *Self complacency* in respect of bodily endowments, is so fixed a principle in human nature, that it would be extremely difficult to find an instance in either sex, who, if brought to the test, would exchange their *mere* person for that of any other : and as a *principle*,—it must act as *effectually to its end* in the mind of deformity, as on the feelings of beauty : which may account for that conceit of personal perfections, which is oftentimes most prevalent where nature hath been least liberal of her favours.

of Mr. POTTS, without the gift of prophecy, or the trouble of an enquiry. The net profit of his plan is estimated, he says, at *two hundred and fifty pounds per week, without risk*; besides what he calls the *grand sweep*.—I'll hear the particulars; and if his estimate be well founded, will accede to his proposal,—or carry it myself into execution as shall best suit my interest or convenience.--The produce of Mr. CREAGH's bills will give me great advantage in either case. *That acquisition* comes likewise very *a propos* for pushing matters with my new conquest, if my intended interview with the uncle be propitious.

February 20th.

Attended my appointment in *Hanover Square*.—If there be a destiny in human affairs, I am certainly selected to give repose to the restless spirit of lord PIGOT. Old MACKAY's permitting my addresses to a girl who is the object of his own licentious passion,—receiving me as a friend, and committing himself confidentially to me *in a first interview*;—demonstrate that the hand of fate is upon him:—and the powers of darkness could not have chosen a more effectual mean of executing their purposes against him, than by introducing *me* to his acquaintance.

The cullibility of the uncle, and the *extreme susceptibility* of the young lady, will save me infinite trouble in the process;—but my project must speedily be carried into execution, or it may fail in spite of *fate*; for a man cannot now a-day be sure of the bread in his mouth, till he has swallowed it. Appearances *must* in the mean time be kept up at a great expence: I shall therefore engage with POTTS and PIGGERSGILL without further consideration, or holding any debate with my conscience concerning the rectitude of their plan:

—— Get money, money still,
And then let virtue follow if she will.

POPE.

February 27th.

Beat up SOLOMON's quarters.—Surprized him in the audacious act of stating the productions of his dexterity committed to his care, in the form of an accompt.—Had sufficient command of myself to conceal my displeasure;—affected great cordiality;—and desired he would name a time for bringing our concerns to a settlement.—His countenance instantly brightened;—he huddled up his papers, and promised to attend me the next day. This little rascal shall re-

turn to his duty, or feel the weight of my power.

February 28th.

SOLOMON kept his appointment, but did not seem disposed to *begin* a conversation. I therefore changed my purpose of acting defensively; and assuming the authority of a plaintiff, required him to account for his absense; in which he had obstinately persisted for three weeks, though repeatedly summoned to attend me. He answered in a tone of insolence, that "he was otherwise engaged." I expressed hopes of his exhibiting *substantial proofs*, that he was *better* engaged. *That*, he said, was unnecessary; for being master of his time, he was not accountable for the application of it.—I was strongly inclined to have laid him at my feet; but fearing he might presume to retort upon me, and perhaps discompose the fascinating arrangement of my features, (which *at this time*, would be particularly *mal-a-propos*), I thought it more prudent to try the effect of *finess*, which is my *forte*; and if that should fail, to have recourse to bluster and menace, which have served me in a hundred critical situations, without risk of a black eye, or a bloody nose. Determined, however, to use them sparingly, as SOLOMON knows I am a coward at heart.

Without giving me time to examine his countenance, (for my proceedings are always govern'd by physiognomonical observation) he opened on a subject which I had no intention, or inclination to discuss.

Solomon. " I presume Sir, from what you
" hinted yesterday, that the settlement of your
" accompt with me is the object of our present
" meeting ; the sooner therefore we proceed to
" business the better.

The King. " Short reckonings, to be sure
" Master SOLOMON, are soonest settled ; and
" your taking the hint so readily hath raised both
" your honor and your comprehension, in my
" estimation, fifty per cent.

Solomon. " I hope you will enable me before
" we part to return the compliment.

The King. " That will depend more on your-
" self than me ; for I always do as I am done
" by.—I understand from the journal of HYDE'S
" office, to which I have free access ; that the
" gentlemen of your corps have been wonder-
" fully active in the last fortnight ; and you know
" sirrah that the informations at *Bow Street*
" (which give the same account) are open to
" me, notwithstanding my fracas with Sir SAMP-
" SON:—it would therefore be an ill compliment
" to the superlative skill and activity of Mr.

“ SOLOMON DE COSTA, to doubt his having
 “ reaped plentifully, from so plentiful a harvest.
 “ Suppose, by way of opening, we look over
 “ the collection you have made since we last
 “ met?

Solomon. “ I don’t pretend to cope with
 “ you in wit; and having never had the bene-
 “ fit of Mr. D—B—R’s instructions in LOGIC,
 “ it would be a folly in me, to waste time in
 “ argumentation.—This paper contains a list
 “ of the articles you have received from me;
 “ which taken at the lowest valuation, cannot
 “ have produced less than four hundred and
 “ fifty, or five hundred pounds; without includ-
 “ ing the gold *tooth pick case* taken from
 “ COUNT GENTILI, or the diamond setting of
 “ his beautiful *miniature*, which, your friend
 “ GREENSILL hath converted into an orna-
 “ ment for your breast. These are not carried
 “ to accompt, because they have the honor I
 “ *perceive*, to compose a part of your *regalia*.
 “ The first thing to be done (in my opinion)
 “ towards a settlement, is the payment of my
 “ share in the produce of the articles you have
 “ *sold*; and to make a fair division of such as
 “ are *not sold*.

The King. “ I cannot assent to a tittle of your
 “ proposition:—and when people differ in the

“ settlement of accompts, it is usual I believe
 “ to have recourse to a third person ; we will
 “ therefore submit the matter, if you please, to
 “ SIR SAMPSON WRIGHT ; who will soon instruct
 “ us in the right method of proceeding ; for
 “ you are bent I perceive upon Newgate, or
 “ the Hulks ; and it shall not be my fault if
 “ you are disappointed.”

Solomon. “ I thank you Sir, for correcting
 “ the error I have committed, in thinking “ *the*
 “ *Devil is not so black as he is painted.*” I am
 “ indeed so sensible of the favor, that, if mis-
 “ fortune should overtake me, whether caused
 “ by accident, or treachery, *you* may sleep in
 “ in peace : for be assured I will never *aggra-*
 “ *vate my disgrace*, by the exposure of *my con-*
 “ *nection with you.*”

The King. “ Come, come, Master SOLOMON,
 “ you are too warm. I have carry’d the joke
 “ perhaps too far. But surely you don’t think
 “ me serious.

Solomon. “ I have no reason to doubt it.”

The King. “ But if I declare otherwise.”

Solomon, “ I should not believe you.—A
 “ hundred instances of perfidy and baseness
 “ towards your best friends, recur to my re-
 “ collection ; which, must have deter’d me

“ from having any intercourse with you ; if I
 “ had given them a thought.

The King. “ Your recollection doth not
 “ enable you, to state any instance of baseness,
 “ or perfidy, towards yourself.

Solomon, “ For the best reason in the
 “ world ;—you had no opportunity. You con-
 “ vinced me, however, that the inclination
 “ was not wanting ; for though I served you
 “ *faithfully*, and *effectually*, for more than five
 “ months as a clerk ; you had not the spirit, or
 “ honesty, to pay me for my services. I have
 “ known many *gentlemen* become bankrupts,
 “ and make *sham failures*, like you, to cheat
 “ other creditors ;—but none who descended to
 “ the petty larceny, of cheating their servants.”

The King. “ That omission, you must be
 “ sensible, was merely the effect of accident.
 “ The *reasons* of my *retreat* from *Love Lane*
 “ were *too urgent* as you know, to allow any
 “ immediate attention to the minutiae of my
 “ domestic concerns. But that subject of com-
 “ plaint, my dear SOLOMON, shall be removed,
 “ the moment you are disposed to indulge me
 “ with half an hours conversation.—At present
 “ you are not in a humour to appreciate my
 “ professions of friendship ; or to credit any

"assurances of my particular regard to your
 "interest. But a little time will convince
 "you."

Solomon. "I am already convinced, that
 "you are destitute of honour, incapable of
 "friendship, and insensible to every Interest
 "but your own." Exit SOLOMON.

I have mismanaged matters strangely with my little Benjamite :—he hath certainly slipped through my fingers ; and (what is worse,) I have no chance of recovering him :—but there is a mixture of good and evil in all human events. Though my loss be greivous, I am relieved from the necessity of *refunding*, which of all things I abominate.—I cannot for the life of me avoid looking upon every thing I touch as my own ; and *it isn't often* that I suffer my self to be *reason'd* out of so pleasant a conceit. But after all it will be long, I fear, before I recover the shock of this rencountre : the undeniable truth of his allegations and the pointed severity of his retorts, overwhelmed my faculties and almost deprived me of the power of utterance.—I've not been so miserably humbled in my own mind since the discipline I received from that terrible ruffian Mc. D—N—GH ; who gain'd admittance by surprise,—just hinted his business,—and

not liking my answer,—never ceased cudgelling me, till, (*one after another!*) I surrendered bills, to the tune of twelve hundred guineas; of which, he said, I had *swindled* Lord LINCOLN; though, God knows, I have seldom made property of a security, more *honestly* in my life.*

Received a visit from Mr. CREAGH, to whom I had fifty times been deny'd, in the last five weeks;—for though I can easily settle it with my conscience, to make free with a man's property,—I don't like to look him afterwards in the face. He was so changed that I should scarcely have known him if he hadn't been announced. He had none of that simplicity and complaisance which *interested me so warmly in his favor* at the *first interview*; but talked loudly,—complained of being tricked,—demanded his bills,—and threatened me with a magistrate, if, they were not instantly delivered.

* The Duke of N. (who was more anxious to *frustrate* the indiscreet efforts of his son to raise money, than to *render them unnecessary*); being informed of these bills *on the morning they became due*; and assured that *no consideration* had been paid;—requested the interposition of Mr. Mc. D. who executed his commission in the judicious, effectual, and *exemplary* manner, described by the KING.

His behaviour, indeed, was altogether so savage, and insolent, that I shall leave him to *his remedy*, without taxing my generosity, (as I had some thoughts of doing,) with another *twenty guineas*. A magistrate indeed!—he little knows how dexterously I manage matters with the *Westminster* Justices. He had a more impressive argument in his hand that might have been applied with greater effect. If he gets another opportunity of using it, *before his bills are paid*, it shall be my fault. *That point* being settled, a *dirk* or *pistol* may be opposed to his *shelala* without hazarding the loss of my prize, by *dispalcbing* him.*

March 11th.

Though ten days are elapsed, the tremendous sound of SOLOMON'S voice still vibrates on my ear: but the remembrance of his defection shall no longer depress me. In a multiplicity of

* The payment of all the bills drawn by Mr. CREAGH being enforced, he was so enraged against the author of his misfortune, as to utter some violent declarations which so alarmed the KING, that he actually procured a poignard and a pistol,—which he constantly wore in two side pockets fitted for the purpose till he received intelligence that Mr. CREAGH had left *England*.

concerns, disappointments, and misfortunes must happen; but I have always found in the changes and chances of my life, that the fortunate event of one project, hath made amends for the failure of another: and who knows but my lottery engagement, may compensate for the loss of SOLOMON? we have begun well, and if any of the favourite numbers remain in the wheel, till the twenty-ninth, or thirtieth day of drawing, we shall make a fine hand of it: the price of insurance will run high; and, as numbers are taken at our offices,—at a lower premium, than, any office keeper *who means to pay*, can afford; we shall be sure of customers enough. But the snares must be well set, and the baits adapted to the various tastes, and humours of adventurers; which will require more skill, and a *much* greater share of discernment, than either of my associates can boast. POTTS indeed has some pretty ideas;—but they are mere hints;—he has nothing systematic or scientific about him. That, however, is no particular disparagement to his abilities; for there is not a rogue of any description, that I know, who systemizes fraud, or swindles scientifically but myself.

The confessions that commence at this period of the journal, and form a large and interesting part of it, are so intermixed as to require the minutes on each subject to be arranged in a distinct and connected order. The EDITOR, therefore resumes the liberty of stating them narratively, lest the want of perspicuity should perplex his readers, and consequently disappoint his hopes of contributing to their intertainment or edification, by provoking them to throw aside his book.

BOLD efforts, indefatigable perseverance, and a rooted aversion to every principle of morality, honesty, or honour, characterize the exploits, and enterprizes of the KING;—and manifestly distinguish his projects, from those of the most *accomplished* of his subjects. He *knows* the danger of delay ; and never exposes himself to the hazard of a disappointment, “by spending much time in negociation.”

He did not forget that the observation of this maxim would be necessary in *Hanover Square*.

His second visit to Miss MACKAY, produced a serious proposal of marriage, to her

uncle. Mr. MACKAY surveyed him with silent astonishment, not unmixed, perhaps, with sensations of another kind; for though he seemingly favoured the first overture; his resolution to sacrifice a vicious, and depraved passion, to the happiness of its object; was too weak to withstand the bewitching influence of a smile, or to survive an accidental touch of her soft hand.

The KING presuming on the authority of an old adage, concluded that his silence implied consent: and availing himself, as he thought, of the favourable moment of compliance; made a tender of the rent-roll of his *Eutopian domain* for Mr. MACKAY's inspection; with a long schedule of ideal property, which he meant to realize at the old gentleman's expence:—and to complete the matter,—desired a speedy explanation of his intentions, concerning the payment of the young lady's fortune.

The consternation which instantly overspread the visage of Mr. MACKAY, could hardly have been exceeded, if the ghost of Lord PIGOT had appeared before him. For he never had it in contemplation to bestow on her a single guinea, but for *value received*. As some reply,

however, was unavoidable, he promised to consult his friends on the subject, and in a short time to acquaint him with the result.—Though nothing favourable or satisfactory could be collected from this answer ;—the boasted acuteness of the KING's discernment must have failed him, if he had not perceived, it was high time to conclude the conversation, and take his leave.

The young lady, whose curiosity had placed her at a convenient aperture in the wainscoat, having overheard their conversation ; contrived in spite of old ARGUS, to convey a note to her lover, unobserved. The consequence, was an immediate interview at a confectioner's in *Bond Street*,—for the harmless purpose of conferring, on the critical situation of their affairs.

Though VENUS be the *avowed* Goddess of the KING's idolatry ; he doth not affect to conceal, that PLUTUS, and MERCURY, come in for a *considerable share* of his devotions. He gave indeed pretty strong proofs on the present occasion, to his infatuated Dulcinea, that there are passions which bear higher rule in his royal bosom, than love.—The moments which an impassioned lover would have consecrated to the delightful effusions of affection ;—to the

extatic and undescribable communications which lovers only experience ;—were devoted to sordid enquiries about her uncle's fortune, which he already enjoyed in imagination, and in efforts to engage her in a diabolical scheme, for obtaining the possession of it in reality.

But in this he over-rated his persuasive powers. —She was not *yet* so contaminated,—so lost to every virtuous and feminine feeling, as to yield her consent.—At this interview however, she disclosed to him the secret motives that influenced, and (in her opinion), would for ever influence Mr. MACKAY, to oppose their union. She described the various characters he had assumed to bring her to his purpose. He had persecuted her with the hateful cooings of debilitated dotage ;—approached her like JUPITER in a shower of gold ;—and in the hideous form of a Satyr had endeavoured by brutal violence to subdue her.—She exhibited to him the marks of outrage imprinted on her arms,—her neck,—her bosom.—He listened to her tale with a degree of anxious attention, which juvenile simplicity could impute only to manly feelings. A tear of gratitude started from her eye.—Her experience had not *yet* taught her that the KING's heart was impenetrable to, the

sentiments, the feelings, or the principles of a man.

It was not her sufferings that interested his attention ;—nor a desire to relieve, or protect her, that produced in his countenance or manner, the appearance of anxiety.—Though habituated by daily misconduct, to daily insult and reproach ; the slightest cause of chagrin excites his malignity. Mr. MACKAY's reception of his matrimonial proposition had disturbed, and offended him. He meditated revenge :—the possession therefore of so important a secret, was a cordial to his heart. He perceived that in the way of recrimination, it would apply as a set off, against any untoward discoveries respecting himself ; or be opposed with effect to the impediments which seemed likely to arise, on the part of Mr. MACKAY, in the prosecution of his matrimonial speculation. These were the *interesting* considerations which rivetted his attention to the circumstances she stated ; and made him eagerly solicitous, to catch every syllable she uttered on the subject. Though the hints, and information he obtained, in this conference with his fair friend, did not absolutely assure his success, they relieved his mind from much apprehension,

and solicitude, concerning the result of Mr. MACKAY's deliberation.

For several succeeding days, he regularly paid his compliments in *Hanover Square*.—Before a week expired, he could neither obtain access to Mr. MACKAY or his niece.—His enquiries were answered from the arca, and he was always told, that, none of the family were at home.—He wrote,—but received no answer.

In cases of mortification, or disappointment, his only source of satisfaction or comfort, is the the hope of revenge. He ceased for some time to knock at the door, but paraded daily in the square with a huge cudgell, the intended instrument of his vengeance on Mr. MACKAY, *who was then in his seventy third year.*

March 18th.

His patience being at length exhausted, and being assured in the neighbourhood that the family was in town, he made another effort to be admitted. They were still invisible. He drew a letter from his pocket, which, he told the servant was of great importance to her master, and must be conveyed to him as soon as possi-

ble. She held up her apron to receive it.—He desired she would send the Valet de Chambre, or receive it herself at the door. The poor girl who was unacquainted with the KING's person had been strictly ordered to admit no *Gentleman*, without calling the footman, or consulting her master; but perceiving nothing in his appearance which answered that description, she saw no harm in complying with his request. The door being consequently opened, he rushed by her, and made good his way to Mr. MACKAY's study, where he found the old gentleman contemplating a naked Venus,—the chef' d' œuvre of little CAUSWAY's pencil. Mr. MACKAY started from his seat. The conversation that ensued is stated verbatim from the KING's journal in the following dialogue.

Mr. Mackay. “What is the occasion of this
“impertinent, and ruffian like intrusion?”

The King. “I come, Sir, to demand a categorical answer to my proposal, and an
“explanation of your ungentlemanly conduct
“towards me.”

Mr. Mackay. “You might have learnt both,
“without giving yourself or me, the trouble
“of this visit.”

The King. “Through what means.”

Mr. Mackay. “ By consulting your conscience.”

The King. “ Conscience, Sir, has not the honour to be in the list of my privy counsellors ; and if I may judge from your exploits in *India* ; or indeed, from a trifling circumstance or two, that have occur’d in *England*,—she has no more concern with your affairs than with mine.”

Mr. Mackay. “ I have neither time or inclination to enter into a further investigation of your merits. I know enough of your situation, and character, to have determined that you shall neither have my neice, nor touch a guinea of my fortune.”

The King. “ You have heard, perhaps, that I am already provided with a wife : which is very true. But the Jewish lawgiver, my good Sir, understood human nature, and was a deal wiser, than the folks who made laws for you christians ;—and it so happens, that, no two men alive are clearer proofs of it than ourselves. You, and your helpmate, who have hated one another, ab origine,—and offer up daily prayers for the dissolution of an odious, and unnatural union ; are doom’d, notwithstanding, by your christian law, to be a curse to each other’ “ so long as ye both

“ shall live.—My Deborah God help her !—has
 “ the gentleness of a lamb, is as fond as a
 “ turtle, and has but one fault : ”—she has out-
 “ lived my liking.” But that fault comprehends
 “ every thing objectionable in a wife. The law
 “ of Moses therefore hath ordained, that a man
 “ in such case shall be allow’d, with the consent
 “ of the priests and elders, (which is a matter
 “ of course,) to put her away. I have made
 “ the necessary arrangements to avail myself
 “ of this indulgent law ; and shall be ready in a
 “ few days, to fulfil my engagement with your
 “ lovely neice, either in the Jewish, or Christian
 “ form.”

Mr. Mackay. “ You have heard my determi-
 “ nation, and might have reserved this proof
 “ of your profligacy, and impudence, for a
 “ fitter occasion. You must now retire.”

Without waiting a reply, he rang the bell;
 and the family having previously been alarmed,
 by the girl who admitted him ; two men ser-
 vants instantly appeared, and laying their irreve-
 rend hands on his royal shoulders, conducted
 him to the street door ; and dismissed him,
 with an impressive admonition, on each side of
 his posteriors, to be more cautious in future

of insulting gentlemen, or bringing poor servants into trouble.

If it were consistent with the duty of an Editor, to gratify his feelings at the expence of Historic truth; he would throw a veil, on the concluding circumstances of this little memoir. But having pledged himself to report faithfully, he cannot avoid informing his readers, that, the KING found means to persuade Miss MACKAY, to retire with him to an obscure lodging at *Pimlico*, where she experienced, (in the short space of eighteen months,) every kind, and degree of misery, that an unfeeling, and unprincipled seducer could inflict, on female credulity.—She was once brought to bed, in that period, and twice miscarried.—The KING's aversion to children is unconquerable. The first symptoms of pregnancy, therefore, (which strengthen affection, and produce an increase of tenderness, in ordinary minds,) caused a manifest abatement in *his* attention and regard, to his unfortunate protégé. His visits were shorter, and less frequent. The indulgences and gratifications he at first provided, (and which her situation now required,) were discontinued; and even the common necessities of life more scantily supplied.

Mr. MACKAY, who during her pregnancy, had resisted her repeated supplications for pardon, and support; was induced by humane interference to grant her, (when she lay in,) an annuity of thirty pounds per annum.

If this favour had been withheld but a few weeks, the sudden death of Mr. MACKAY would have left her without the smallest token, of his bounty; or any other resource, than a paltry, and precarious pittance, of twelve shillings a week,—allotted by her *liberal* seducer, for the maintenance of herself and her child!

Before the expiration of the eighteen months, in which she was honour'd with the KING's protection; he introduced to her acquaintance, a French desperado, named CHAMERON, who had been private secretary, to the Duc DE PENTHIEUVRE; but having made too free with the contents of his master's bureau, was obliged to make a precipitate retreat from his own country; and had taken refuge in the metropolis of *England*. This gentleman was intended by the KING, to succeed him in the possession, if not in the affection of Miss MACKAY,—No artifice or manœuvre, conducive to this object,

was omitted. He very soon persuaded them to believe, that each, had a partiality for the other; and by frequently bringing them together, produced in reality, what they had been artfully taught, by his insinuations, to imagine.

The person and address of her new lover, being very superior to the vulgar figure, and and uncooth manners, of her seducer; and his unmanly treatment, having greatly weakened her affection towards him; it would have been extraordinary indeed, if she had escaped the snare.—The plot succeeded in all its circumstances, to his utmost wishes, and gave him an opportunity of exhibiting another instance of hypocrisy, and finesse. He affected to be greatly distressed at the obvious estrangement of her affections; and gently reproached his friend, for depriving him of so invaluable a blessing. But perceiving, he said, the violence of their attachment to each other, he knew it would be madness to oppose their wishes; and had therefore come to a resolution to ensure *their* happiness, whatever might be the consequence to himself: and concluded the farce, by condescendingly joining their hands.

April 18th.

The KING's mind, had been so intent on the accomplishment of his purpose in *Hanover Square*, that during three weeks, which preceded his last visit to Mr. MACKAY, he seemed to have forgotten, that any such persons as PIGGERSGIL, or POTTS existed. The event of that visit roused him from his delusive dream, of wallowing in rupees, and pagodas, without the trouble of a voyage to *India*; and brought to his recollection, that the wheel of fortune was at that moment, making rapid revolutions in his favour.

Though his lottery concern, (owing as he supposed to the roguery of his partners,) did not produce the tythe of his estimate; he netted upwards of four hundred pounds. The deficiency was imputed by his associates, to the incalculable, and unfortunate event, of the *two* favourite numbers breaking cover on the twenty-first day of drawing: which obliged them to decamp, a week sooner than had been fixed for their adjournment. They stated likewise in further explanation, that the entire front of their office in *Piccadilly* being pulled down;

and every door, window, and partition of their house in *Holborn*, demolished by the mob; they were obliged to pay the damages on the nail; (which, had been estimated by *anticipation*, at the enormous sum of six hundred and eighty seven pounds,) or, submit to be surrendered by their rapacious landlords, to an enraged populace.

Not chusing to risk so valuable an acquisition as Mr. POTTS; he passed their account with seeming approbation; but determined to take upon himself, the office of treasurer, in their next adventure; and to make himself ample amends for his present disappointment.^A

April 23d.

The title of CONVEYANCER, which the KING assumed in his advertisement from *Gray's Inn*, attracted the notice of the society; and caused a little derangement in his plan of operations.—An inquiry was instituted concerning the character, and pursuits, of the occupier of Mr. ROBINSON's chambers. FREEMAN the (ostensible manager of the business,) feeling a presentiment on this occasion, that the fore-ground would be the post of danger; declared the name of his principal.—A peremptory mandate, to quit the

Inn within *three days*, was immediately dispatched to the KING; with an admonition to desist, from styling himself a *Conveyancer*;—as he might otherwise expect, to be advertised as an *impostor*.

His frequent experience of circumstances like this; and the consciousness that resistance must increase the evil,—determined to submit: and in *three hours* the key of his chambers was delivered to the treasurer of the society. He observed however at parting, that if every rogue in the Inn were dealt with, as he had been, the chambers occupied by the *members*, would very soon be without tenants.

The loss of his office in *Gray's Inn*, was a matter of serious concern; but the manner of his expulsion affected him more sensibly than any disgrace he had suffered, since his *ignominious failure in Love Lane*; because it left him hopeless of satisfaction, or revenge;—and was unaccompanied with the soothing gratifications of success,—which have a wonderful effect in conciliating his mind to the *indignities*, and *discipline*, which frequently attend his predal speculations, and exploits.

It was several months before the loss of his chambers was repaired, by the acquisition of a house ; for neither ROBINSON, or TOM FREEMAN had been able to persuade any person to receive *him*, or either of themselves, as a tenant ; and it might have been much longer, if the attractive power of congeniality, (by which rogues, as well as virtuous men are impelled towards each other,) had not thrown him into contact with Mr. *John* FREEMAN, an Attorney of *Hay Hill*, in *Worcestershire*, who at that time was in possession of a decent house in the neighbourhood of *St James's*.

What subject could resist so fair an occasion of serving his KING?—FREEMAN was dutiful and loyal.—His sovereign condescending and gracious. The residence of his Predatorial Majesty was consequently removed to Mr. FREEMAN's house in *Cleveland Court* ; where he soon recovered his spirits, and astonished the world with new and extraordinary efforts of his genius.

MANY of the exploits which gave celebrity to MR. JOHN FREEMAN, in the counties of Worcester and Warwick, had reached the KING's ear ; and made him very desirous to enter into an alliance with him ; he therefore determined, if possible, to retain him *near his person* ; but to secure him, at all events, in some way or other.

A more favourable opportunity than the present could not have occurred ; for the *cause* of his visit to London, made it *necessary* to postpone, for some time, his return to Hay Hill.

The KING's purpose was completely accomplished at their first conference ; in which he had the further satisfaction of learning, that several of MR. FREEMAN's *Country Associates*, who were in the same predicament with himself ;—and whose *spirit* and *abilities* qualified them for any enterprize, were at his devotion : among whom were Messrs. Joseph and Samuel Harris ; the latter of whom, under the name of Nelthorpe, had defrauded an amiable and beautiful dutchess of fifteen hundred pounds. These *gentlemen* being presented on the next day, were honoured by

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the KING with a gracious and cordial reception ; and their names immediately entered on the list of his Majesty's servants.

An advertisement containing liberal offers of service, as a *Financier*, to persons of rank *only* ; WITHOUT ANY PECUNIARY COMPENSATION, was his first manœuvre in Cleveland court. He professed, under the fictitious name of *Osborne*, to supply whatever sum their occasions might require ; on the easy condition of employing their interest in procuring civil employments either at home or abroad ;—commissions in the army or navy ; or any sort of church preferment ; in favour of a few friends, for whom the advertiser wished to provide :—intimating likewise, that other advantages attending this method of negotiating loans, (incommunicable through a newspaper) would be demonstrated to such of the nobility, as should honor him with their commands.

As no symptom of a disposition to serve any body but himself ; or to admit a reciprocity of interests in his negotiations, has hitherto appeared ; the reader, (if left to his conjectures concerning the object of this advertisement,) must conclude ; that, the KING's intention, was to
commence

commence Auctioneer ; and that all offices, civil and military, naval and ecclesiastical ; were in his speculation, destined to the hammer :—or that a marvellous metamorphose had taken place in his royal mind. “ But the Æthiop changes not his skin, nor the Leopard his spots.” Whatever mask he may assume, his purpose is depredation.

An advertisement of more general import might at this time have exposed him to the suspicious eye of the Gray’s Inn Society ; whose notice he still wished to elude ;—and the facility with which he was discovered through the dastardly timidity of MR. TOM FREEMAN, had determined him to take in future, a more remote, and consequently, a more secure station, in the back ground. His present manœuvre, therefore, was intended merely, to obtain the names of such persons of distinction, as stood in need of temporary supplies ; for nothing was further from his intentions than a *personal negociation*, or a *correspondence* with them. The giving in their names ; the sum wanted ; and the time at which it must be supplied ;—with the common-place assurance on the part of *Mr. Osborne*, that their business should be compleated with all possible expedition ; concluded the business of a first visit in Cleveland court.

The following letter, of which numerous transcripts were always ready, was instantly dispatched to the house of any gentleman who thus applied ; and so expeditiously conveyed, as to meet him at his return : by which all eventual suspicion was averted from its real author.

“ SIR,

“ I am this moment informed by a gentleman,
 “ who has the honor to be your particular friend;
 “ that you are desirous of raising a sum of money,
 “ without wasting time, in the formalities of a
 “ mortgage ; or submitting to the impertinent
 “ ceremony of a bond.—It gives me particular
 “ pleasure to inform you, that I have seven, or
 “ eight hundred pounds at my disposal ; with
 “ which I am ready to accommodate you at six
 “ hours notice, *on your note only*. I will wait on
 “ you to-morrow at ten, and hope to find, (what-
 “ ever be your determination,) that I have not
 “ offended, by presuming to solicit the honor of
 “ serving you.

“ I am, Sir, most respectfully,

“ Your devoted Servant, &c.”

The execution of this project was confided to Mr. James Piggersgill, who generally subscribed the letter, with the name of his friend Potts ;
 but

but had sometimes the boldness to subscribe his own.

The receipt of a letter, so highly flattering to the wishes of any gentleman in immediate want of money; could not fail to give a favourable impression, and induce a polite, and welcome reception of the writer. No instance indeed occurred, in which the manœuvre did not succeed, to the utmost extent of the KING's speculation; for no gentleman, on whom the experiment was tried, either declined the proposed interview; or hesitated to commit his notes *for a few hours*, to enable the specious, and accommodating Mr. James Piggerfgill, to procure the promised supply.

The late Earl of S—D—W—CH, and SIR G—R—E Y—GE, were the principal sufferers in this adventure.—From the former,—acceptances were obtained for *four hundred and eighty pounds*; which his Lordship agreed, after a faint resistance, to liquidate by quarterly instalments; though *no* consideration was paid.

The matter with SIR G—R—E Y—GE, (from whom Bills of Exchange were obtained for six hundred pounds,) produced a feverer conflict. The bills were advertised, with the usual intimation, that being fraudulently obtained, they
would

would not be paid. This spirited proceeding, from which gentlemen so defrauded, are frequently discouraged by false delicacy; put an end to the KING's depredations in this way.

The editor wishes he could add, that it prevented all further trouble to SIR G—R—E; or even, that roguery was not triumphant in the end. The bills were transmitted by Mr. Jackson, of Snow hill, to his factor, at Amsterdam; and the hand-writing of the British Se—t—y at W—r being satisfactorily proved, they of course passed through the common channels of circulation. In due time they were remitted for payment; with a reference, (if any difficulty arose,) to Mr. Jackson; by whom they were *guaranteed*, though *not indorsed*. Payment being refused agreeably to SIR G—R—E's advertisement; an action was brought by Jackson, as attorney for his correspondent in Holland. The law has no respect to persons. The necessary proofs being adduced, in support of the action; and the circumstances stated in defence, being inadmissible; or at least ineffectual *in a court of law*; a verdict was entered for the plaintiff, to the full amount of the bills.

A very little attention to the exploits recorded
by

by his PREDATORIAL MAJESTY, will clearly evince, that he hath oftener succeeded, through the unguarded, and unreserved confidence of his clients, in committing their bills, acceptances, or other securities;—than by any efforts of his own ingenuity: and if the caution, which this observation suggests, be strictly observed; the SWINDLER will be deprived of his chief resource;—and the *rapacious tribe of Money-lenders* be soon driven from the walks of men.

The peremptory injunction by which the KING was restricted in the use of one advertisement; and the necessity he was now under of discontinuing another; (lest the keen eye of suspicion should glance upon him;) had so circumscribed his speculations; that he found himself perfectly at leisure, to enquire into the respective capabilities of his new associates:—and was perfectly sensible that some plan of operations, independent of advertisements, *must*, for the present, be adopted. For these purposes Mr. JOHN FREEMAN was called to a consultation.

A variety of undigested projects for an attack upon the principal bankers of the metropolis, had occasionally employed the KING's cogitations for several years. They now pressed upon his
mind

mind with more than usual impulse ; which he attributed to the over-ruling influence of his *familiar* : concluding therefore that the moment was at hand which fate had marked for the execution of his purpose :—he communicated his thoughts to Mr. J. Freeman.—Harmony of opinion is a natural effect of congeniality in principle. Inspiration could not have produced a more perfect coincidence in sentiment, or inclination.

The outline of a plan was sketched ; confidential accomplices named ; and subjects for their first experiment selected from the list of Bankers. Sir Robert Herries, and Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks were the intended victims. But much remained to be accomplished, before the projectors could begin their operation. It was essential to their plan that respectable accounts should be opened at both houses ; which according to their estimate, would require twelve hundred pounds. The KING's finances, notwithstanding the nominal amount of his late acquisitions, did not enable him to lay down a sixth part of the sum ; and the pecuniary ability of his partner was still more defective. The most desperate expedients were *meditated* ; but affording no hope of a supply, in any degree suitable to their purpose ; they
were

were not resorted to. The project however was too promising to be abandoned, till every effort of invention had failed.

Freeman had been the solicitor and confidential friend of Mr. G—t, the high B—l—f of B—ng—m, who had scraped together a considerable property; and never suffered an opportunity of increasing it, to escape him. He was in short so devoted to the maxims of worldly wisdom, that he would run any risk to secure a *good thing*. The slightest intimation, (under circumstances like the present,) that such a man as Mr. G—t existed, was a sufficient stimulus to the KING, to have undertaken a journey to the antipodes.

The hints he received from John Freeman concerning the character and situation of G—t, determined him to prepare instantly for an expedition to Warwickshire, and decided in his mind the fate of the bankers.

The dread of being taken caused a momentary unwillingness in Freeman to accompany him. But the manifest probability of success; the persuasions of the KING; and the obvious necessity of his presence, to introduce, and negotiate the business with G—t, having quieted his
O fears;

fears ;—a post chaise and four was ordered to attend at an early hour the next morning, in Cleveland court ; and before midnight, they were set down at Dadley's hotel, at Birmingham.

The KING was introduced in form, and the purpose of their visit communicated on the following day to Mr. G—t. The influence of JOHN FREEMAN ; the eloquence of the KING ; and, though last not least,—the ruling passion of the H—h B—l—f,—silenced every suggestion of prudence ; and precipitated the conclusion of a treaty, by which he engaged to supply the KING, with three hundred pounds on his bond ; to advance two hundred for Freeman ; and to lay down four hundred for himself, as a co-partner in their intended levy on the Bankers. The purpose of their journey being thus far accomplished ; they were too expert in negotiation, to allow him a moment for reflection ; till the terms of the treaty, on his part were compleatly fulfilled. The payment was made by a bill of the Birmingham Bank, payable in London, for nine hundred pounds. The KING who had experienced the accidents that sometimes happen, between the cup and the lip ; would have preferred bank notes ; or even the trouble of conveying their prize to London, in hard cash. To
guard

guard as effectually as circumstances admitted, against embarrassment, or disappointment,—from any after-thoughts of their new ally ; they took leave of the H—h B—l—f, and returned with all possible expedition to town.

The chief impediment to the execution of their project being now removed ; the subalterns were assembled to receive their final instructions. The accompt with Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks, was entrusted to John Haydon, a favorite and confidential clerk of Mr. FREEMAN ;—that with Sir Robert Herries,—to Henry Chamberlain, a farmer, who resided at a village near Hereford.

No circumstance of the KING's life had ever put his faith in man, to so hard a trial. Being conscious that a sixth part of six hundred pounds, was more than sufficient, to outweigh every consideration in his own mind ; he found it difficult to believe, that, either Haydon, or Chamberlain, who were practised in every species of roguery ; would withstand a temptation, so greatly superior to his own powers of resistance. Thro' this impression he more than half inclined to abandon the project ; but was restrained by the fear of offending FREEMAN ; of whose consequence he had received such unequivocal proof ;—and who was best able to judge, whether the persons they

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had

had chosen, were worthy of confidence or not. He brought himself therefore to submit, though with great reluctance, to put into their hands twelve hundred pounds ; for the purpose of opening accompts, *severally*, and in their *own names*, with the bankers.

The event proved, that the KING was better versed in the depraved principles, and wicked propensities of human nature, than his colleague ; and that in one instance he had done no injustice, in “ measuring another man’s corn with his own bushel.” His apprehensions were fully realized by the treachery and flight of Mr. John Haydon ; who was too apt a scholar to neglect so fair an opportunity of imitating his masters. The evil was without a remedy : but to prevent further loss,—the other sum of six hundred pounds, was immediately withdrawn from Chamberlain ; and the project unavoidably postponed, — to the great mortification, and discomfiture of the KING.

The absolute certainty of success, if their plan of operations had been faithfully conducted ; determined them to strain every nerve to repair their loss : and with all possible vigour, and expedition to resume their proceedings. They
were

were not however in a condition to do this for many months. The further manœuvres therefore by which they finally succeeded, do not belong to this period of the journal ; but are introduced here, because a distinct view of the transaction, is more material to the information, and entertainment of the reader, than a strict adherence to the order in which it stands.

Before the re-commencement of their operations, the confederates agreed that Charing cross and St. James's street were not sufficiently distant from each other, to allow time for the complete execution of their purpose. Messrs. H—y and Co. with Messrs. P—s, H—y and B—h, were substituted, in the room of Sir Robert Herries, and Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks.

An accompt was consequently opened with Messrs. H—y and Co. in the name of Glover ; a Carpenter, of Henly Arden, in Warwickshire ; who was equipped, and attended as a man of fortune. Another accompt was opened with P—s and Co. by Joseph Albut, a Taylor, of Alnwick, in Worcestershire, who was likewise fitted out as a gentleman. The sums which composed these accompts, (amounting to upwards of eleven

ven hundred pounds,) were kept in perpetual fluctuation between the two houses. If Glover's accompt with P—s and Co. was low, that of Albut's with H—y was proportionably high. Frequent transfers of cash were likewise made, preparatory to the *grand coup*, from one house to the other;—*by mutually paying in cheques, during the settling hours*,—which, according to the practice of that time, *were immediately carried to their cash accompts*. The regular payment of these cheques for several weeks, amounting sometimes to five, or six hundred pounds, created a sort of delusive credit; by which the clerks were thrown off their guard; and their masters eventually defrauded:—for the KING, (under whose eye every movement was made,) perceiving he had nothing to apprehend from the suspicious caution, which, commonly pervades the transactions of a Banking-house: assembled his coadjutors, and made immediate preparations for carrying their point by a *coup de main*;—which was the method of attack originally fixed upon, for their present enterprize.

Glover and Albut surrendered their pecuniary charge, by giving drafts to the KING on their respective bankers; for nearly the amount of their accompts: and filled up cheques in favor of each other, for fifteen hundred pounds; which were
sent

sent in, the same evening, by way of replacing the sums they had *so* drawn. Cheques for that sum, likewise, were put into the KING's hands, to be presented the next morning for payment; before any communication was likely to take place, (in the common course of business,) between the two houses. These cheques were distributed by the KING and his colleague to the persons selected to receive them; who were so alert in executing their orders, that fourteen hundred and twenty five pounds were received before ten o'clock on the following day. A bill for the remaining seventy five pounds being presented at Messrs. H—y's after the fraud was discovered; the bearer, (Richard Cove) a menial in the KING's service, was apprehended, and taken before the Lord Mayor: but the drawer having kept cash with Messrs. H—y and Co. the case could be considered only, as an attempt of Glover to overdraw his account. No criminality therefore attaching to the bearer;—Cove was discharged. The KING who still retained a painful remembrance of the defaultation of Haydon, did not expose his present assistants to the like temptation; but stationed himself in a coach (with *Mr. Drage*, his chief clerk,) so near to the scene of action, as to have a perfect view of every person; who
either

either went in, or came out of the shop of Messrs. H—y and Co.

The persons employed with Cove to receive the money, were *Thomas D—n*, (one of his own clerks,) a man of the name of Corbin who had been his coachman, and W—m M—ls an attorney of Birmingham; who came to town in the suit of MR. JOHN FREEMAN. They were ordered to convey the produce of the cheques to the KING;—and being aware of the difficulty of eluding him, his orders were obeyed. A division of the profits were made on the same day, at a meeting of the parties in Cleveland Court.

The KING, whose tenaciousness of the glory; of a well-planned enterprise; is but little inferior to the greediness of his appetite for the fruits of it;—being fearful, that the credit of this adventure, might be given to some other genius in his way; deposited his share of the plunder, with Messrs. P—s and Co. (who were his own bankers) in the identical notes, of which they were defrauded but the day before. He was consequently taken into custody, and underwent an examination at Bow street: but his case being nearly the same as that of Richard Cove; he was discharged on his parole engagement, to attend,

tend, whenever he should be called upon for that purpose. His bankers declined all further concern with him; and a proper minute of the transaction, was entered in their book, against his name.

Glover was afterwards indicted by H—y and Co. and tried at Hicks's Hall for a *fraud*; but was acquitted, on the same reason which induced the magistrates in the first instance to discharge the KING, and his accomplice *Mr. Richard Cove*. If an indictment for a conspiracy (*which is at this moment a subject of great apprehension to the KING*) had been preferred against such of the parties as were known: it is more than probable, that the hand of justice would have fastened upon them; and the public have thereby escaped the many subsequent frauds, and depredations recorded in this book.

THE treacherous elopement of John Haydon; (from which period the editor now resumes the regular statement of occurrences,) having thrown the KING into a state little short of desperation; he resolved to stick at no measures that afforded

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the smallest chance of repairing his loss, or contributing in any degree towards it. He revolved in his mind, the numberless expedients to which, in former times, he had resorted, in critical situations; and referred to every document in his possession, to assist his memory, and quicken his invention. It is probable, he was thus engaged, when the incident occurred which gave rise to the following soliloquy.

“ In rummaging my repository of old papers,
 “ this packet, containing my correspondence with
 “ the *PERDITA*, caught my eye:—painful moment
 “ of my folly!—Two thousand guineas, lavished on
 “ the fair enchantress, in the short space of ten
 “ months!—choused after all in my plan of selling
 “ her;—and shamefully discarded into the bargain!
 “ This might, notwithstanding, have turned out a
 “ profitable adventure, but for the premature dis-
 “ covery of my negotiation with *W—l—ie*; in which
 “ I shrewdly suspect there was treachery; though
 “ the old fox laid all the blame of our miscarriage to
 “ my finessing too deeply on the *PRINCE*.—Be that
 “ as it may, the stratagem was good; and the boy’s
 “ offering, *at once*, to frank my ten months frolic,
 “ for resigning, what I could not keep; was a good
 “ *speculative* reason, for setting my condescension
 “ at a higher price. The event, to be sure, most
 lamentably

“lamentably verified the old adage; ‘that a
 “bird in hand is worth two in the bush.’ The
 “PRINCE, (plague on his impetuosity,) being too
 “deeply enamoured, to wait the tedious process
 “of a negotiation; availed himself of the privi-
 “lege of Royalty; and gave the faithless PER-
 “DITA, an opportunity of bargaining for her-
 “self, without my intervention, or even the
 “ceremony of an introduction. The vixen shall
 “yet pay for my disappointment, one way or
 “other. A fitter instrument than this packet,
 “for avenging myself on her person, or purse,
 “could not have fallen in my way: and a more
 “pressing occasion for making use of it can never
 “happen. She shall come down handsomely, or,
 “by the beard of Moses, these tender epistles
 “shall *proclaim*, that she had once the honor of
 “administering to my pleasures.”

In this resolution he soon posted to Berkeley
 square. The PERDITA was inaccessible. Tho’
 several years had intervened since he last
 presented himself at her door, the discipline
 he received at that time being still in his
 memory, he made no effort to intrude; but
 took the safer method of soliciting an interview
 by letter. He gave her to understand that
love had no concern whatever, in the object
 of his visit; but that his business, notwithstanding,

was of sufficient importance, to authorise his demanding an immediate audience. Odious, and despicable, as he had rendered himself in her eyes; by offering her to sale, and endeavouring to convert her favours into an article of trade; she consented,—after much deliberation, to receive him, *in the presence of a third person*. An interview consequently took place. The presence of a third person was an insurmountable impediment to his purpose. He desired to have no witness to their conversation.—The terms of his admittance were declared to be unalterable.—He proposed questions which clearly indicated an intention, to exceed the professed object of his visit:—was told he must either confine himself to a brief statement of the *important* business hinted at in his letter, or withdraw. The stateliness of the PERDITA overawed his assurance; but the loveliness, and elegance of her person, excited no sense of compunction. His devoirs to beauty, are the speculations *only*, of a PANDER. He at length intimated a demand of four hundred pounds; which, he said, five minutes private communication would clearly explain. Having pressed in vain for this indulgence; and knowing the danger of being more explicit before a witness; he prudently retired without hazarding, (as he intended) an avowal of his determination to publish their correspondence, if she refused payment.

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The peculiar caution, and reserve, which had parry'd his attack in the present instance, convinced him, he had no chance of accomplishing his purpose; without a total change in his plan of operations. A consultation, therefore, with his attorney and solicitor-general, Messrs. Priddle, and Robinson, was the prelude to an action against the *PERDITA*, for two thousand pounds. The honor of conducting this manœuvre devolved in right of precedency, to Mr. Priddle. The office of transcribing, and conveying anonymous letters to Lord M—l—n, her avowed protector; containing groundless charges, and insinuations—ingeniously calculated to injure her in his opinion;—was assigned to his solicitor general. To collect, and insert ridiculous, and malignant paragraphs against her in the daily papers;—to throw out intimations of an intended publication of her correspondence with himself;—and to procure such letters to be written in her name; as might countenance the improbable pretence, that, a tender connection had formerly subsisted between them; were the parts he reserved to himself. These efforts, though pursued with unremitting zeal, and perseverance, for several months, produced no effect to his purpose. The artifices by which he strove to engage her in a treaty of pacification;—and his offer to relax in his demand

mand, or even to abandon it altogether, were alike fruitless of effect.

Having run to the extremity of his speculation; and his expences having risen to a serious amount; he set in earnest about publishing the pretended correspondence;—in the forlorn hope of repaying himself from the sale of his forgery. To give the credit of authenticity to his publication, the fictitious letters, written in a character similar to her's, with *some*, which she had actually written to him on pecuniary business, *as her broker*,—were deposited in the hands of Messrs. Fielding and Walker, in Paternoster-row, and advertised for public inspection. While matters were in this state, a circumstance arose which revived the KING's hopes; and delayed, for a short time, the discharge of his last shaft. He learnt from his publishers, that the PERDITA, accompanied by Lord M—l—n, had examined the letters, and acknowledged some of them to be genuine; but declared the greater part to be a forgery. That his lordship notwithstanding was apparently perplexed, by the strong similitude of character, between the *spurious* letters, and those *admitted* to be genuine. Lord M—l—n knew not the extraordinary talents and accomplishments of the KING. It was further added, that his Lordship
made

made earnest enquiry, to what number of copies the publication would be extended: and, being informed, that the sale had been estimated at ten thousand; and might probably run higher; he appeared to be extremely agitated: that he, thereupon drew the *PERDITA* aside; and having conferred with her for some minutes;—departed without saying another word to Messrs. Fielding and Walker, on the subject.

The KING, who has a wonderful knack at building castles in the air; concluded, from this incident, that Lord M—l—en had determined to purchase the whole impression, to whatever number it might amount. He instructed his publishers, therefore, to lay their estimate, when his Lordship should next apply, at fifteen thousand: and authorized them to agree, on his making a sufficient deposit, to *cancel the letters*, and *suppress the publication*. He was so confident of this up-shot, that the guineas already glittered, —*in his mind's eye*.

Profound theorists are very liable to the error of “counting their chickens before they are hatched.” It so happened with the KING; for if Lord M—l—en was at first inclined to suppress the *pretended* correspondence; a perfect indifference about the matter, was the result of his
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second thoughts. The letters were consequently published ; and scarcely a week passed, for a considerable time, without the advertisement of a new edition. But neither *that*, nor any other trick, could *force* the sale beyond a hundred copies : for it was not deemed credible, that a proceeding, so contrary to the *principles*, and *feelings* of a *man* ; could be any thing more, than the catch-penny manœuvre of a Grub-street *assassin*.

WHILE the KING was engaged in this pursuit, his jackalls were not less diligent, in the application of *their* talents ; but his attention was so totally occupied, by his machinations against the PERDITA ; that he had not allowed himself time, to receive the reports of their proceedings. A variety of bills, therefore, remained in their hands, which, he was now requested to examine ; in order to ascertain, and settle the prize-money, due on such bills, to the captors.

The names of respectable, and responsible tradesmen, might here be inserted ; whose temporary difficulties had induced them to confide their bills to the KING's collectors ; with as little

the precaution, as the most thoughtless spend-thrift could have done: and who eventually found the intended remedy, (as in such cases must always happen,) to be a greater evil than the disease. But as neither of their cases involves any circumstance, but what arises in the common process on notes of hand; by which the frauds practised on them were *legalized*; and the expences of litigation added to their loss: and being consequently void of any incident, or anecdote to render them either useful, or entertaining, they are omitted in these extracts.

The only acquisition that produced any consequences, worth notice; was a bill accepted by General L—l—d, for three hundred pounds, payable at a distant period, to his own order; which the ingenious Mr. James Piggersgill, (whose address was admirably adapted to this branch of swindling,) had obtained, for the purpose of raising a temporary supply; but, whether for the *General*, or *himself*, was not specified, he said, by any memorandum or receipt; and *jocosely* proposed a question on the case, for the KING's decision. The KING, (who has but one rule of adjudication on such occasions,) having deposited the bill in his pocket book; decreed in the *same stile of jocularity*; that, nine points in ten, according

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according to proverbial law, were in favor of the *possessor* : and, as no man in his senses, would engage in a suit, with the odds so much against him ; it would be best for all parties, that *he* should retain, and *apply* the bill to his own use.

The General, who very soon discovered, that his accommodating friend had *out generald* him ; and being aware that the circumstances of the story, if made public, might raise the laugh against him ; determined to remain silent ;—leaving the event to *chance*, and his own exertions ;—nor could a better method of turning both to the best account, have been devised, than that which he adopted. He seated himself alternately at the windows of the several coffee houses, about Charing Cross, and the Strand ; where he daily spent several hours, in observing the persons who either passed, or came in. Before his patience had undergone a fortnight's exercise, the negotiation of an annuity brought Mr. *Paul P*——ll to the *Cannon Coffee house* ; where the General had taken his post of observation. The personal resemblance between Paul and his brother James, was so strong, that the General tapped him on the shoulder, and demanded his bill. It happened unfortunately for Paul, that the *Cannon* being one of the places, at which he frequently

quently transacted business ; his person, character, and occupation were perfectly known. The charge brought against him by the General, admitting therefore of no doubt, with the persons present, he was taken (notwithstanding his innocence in *this* case) before the sitting Magistrate, in Litchfield street.

A messenger was immediately dispatched by Mr. F—r, (the principal clerk, to the justices of that office) with a letter to the KING ; informing him of Paul's situation, and advising him if he was concerned, or interested in the business, to attend the examination ; for that something *must* be done ; as the General was too determined in his purpose, to be amused with the *jargon*, or *manœuvres* of the office.

At the moment the KING arrived, the General was about to swear : but thinking, on a more critical view of the prisoner, that, he appeared to be a stouter man, than the *gentleman* who had swindled him, (as was in truth the case) ; he expressed his doubts to the justice, and returned the book. One of the runners of the office, fearing there would be no commitment ; and, consequently, that he should lose the benefit of a jaunt to Tothill-fields ; whispered the General, that

P—l was certainly a notorious swindler ; and might have fattened, by a few weeks feeding on the produce of his honor's bill. The General notwithstanding remained doubtful. Mr. Crofts, who was the sitting magistrate, proposed to adjourn the examination to a future day, and in the mean time to advertise the bill. The examination was adjourned accordingly.

The justice, who was a good sort of a man, in his way, adopted this measure, to leave an opening for the negotiation of a compromise ; which he plainly saw, was the General's only resource : for knowing the KING's aversion to judicial investigations ;—*his attending the examination*, was a clear proof in his worship's mind, that he was a principal in the transaction : and if the complaint was then dismissed, that the General would hear no more of his bill, till it should become payable. This was hinted to General L—l—d, with an intimation that the KING (who was pointed out to him) having great knowledge in these matters ; would not be offended if he acquainted him with his case ;—and *if proper terms were proposed*, might undertake to assist him.

The reasons which prevented the General
from

from applying to a magistrate, in the first instance, being now equally strong, against making his indiscretion the subject of an advertisement; he determined, without hesitation, to take the hint. The KING, (whose nerves were so enfeebled by his frequent conflicts with justice, that he never thought of the Old Bailey, or Westminster Hall, without fear and trembling;) having taken a scientific survey of the General, and not liking either his countenance, or the spirited manner of his proceeding; was equally inclined to a negotiation; which was immediately opened, through the medium of his good friend Mr. F——. The General proposed fifty, the KING a hundred pounds to ensure the recovery of the bill; which was at length undertaken for seventy five. The premium was accordingly paid,—the bill restored, and no questions asked.

THE King's attention being at this time entirely occupied by a speculation of more than common magnitude;—he naturally wished to avoid a tedious negotiation; which probably contributed more to the mitigation of his usual fine
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on restoring a bill, than his dread of the law, or his apprehensions of the spirited and persevering exertions of General L—l—d: for the circumstances of the case enabled him to be as *tenacious* or *exorbitant* as he pleased,—*with impunity*. The General therefore was extremely fortunate in having encountered him at a moment, when his utmost faculty of depredation, was devoted to higher objects.

He had just entered on a predatorial plan for raising twenty thousand pounds; in the execution of which Mr. JOHN FREEMAN was his chief associate. The under actors were Messrs. John Dean, Joseph Harris, Samuel Harris, and P—l P——ll. *Dean*, being a sea-faring man, and having no fixed place of abode, could more easily shift his station; or, in case of interruption, dispose of himself, with less hazard of detection, than any other of the gang:—he was therefore selected, to personate the *principal* with a promised recompence of two hundred guineas, for two months attendance; which was the utmost period, on the KING's calculation; to which the existence of the firm, or the prosecution of the enterprize, could be extended.

The frequent occasions on which the KING
had

had been made sensible of his great deficiencies, in point of figure, accomplishments, and address; made him particularly attentive to those circumstances, in his ostensible agents. On this principle Mr. Samuel Harris, (being a man of gentlemanly manners, and appearance, with a competent knowledge of the German, French, and Italian languages) was appointed to the office of chief clerk, at a stipulated poundage, on the net profit of the adventure.

A house was taken, and an office opened in Three King Court, Lombard street; under the firm of Messrs. John Dean and Company: bills for circulation, to the amount of twenty thousand guineas were printed off, as nearly resembling bank notes, as the law allowed: proposals of immediate accommodation, to persons of credit, under any circumstances, of pecuniary embarrassment,—on their notes,—or Bills of Exchange, at negotiable dates; were strongly advertised in the daily papers: and conveyed, by printed letters, to several thousand persons, within the bills of mortality; whose necessities had occasionally obliged them to confide their cases, names, and places of abode, to his predatorial Majesty, or some other of the nefarious tribe of *Advertising Money Lenders*. Professions of *disinterested Philanthropy*,

trophy,—assurances of *strict* honor,—*secrecy*, and *expedition*; with the usual intimations of *money at a Bankers*,—inexhaustible resources, &c. were so judiciously thrown out, as to induce immediate applications; and a numerous list of clients, composed of noblemen,—officers of distinction,—ladies,—private gentlemen,—and traders, from all parts of the town, was soon formed;—proving like the *Bottle Conjuror*, that no subject of speculation is more certain than ENGLISH CREDULITY.

Though DEAN ostensibly presided in the home-department, he acted under the immediate orders, and inspection of the KING: and none were admitted to a conference, till *he* had taken a critical, but *secret* survey of their persons, and physiognomy;—which he accomplished by means of a tube, that communicated with the apartment, into which the dupes of the advertisement, were first shewn. After this ceremony, they were introduced in the order they arrived, (*if unobjectionable*)—to MR. DEAN; to whom the KING, who never failed to attend during the stated hours of business, delivered his hints or instructions, as circumstances required; from a small recess in the back ground, where he was invisible to every other person: and, “ as the *Prompter* breathed,

breathed, the *Puppet* squeaked." It was the province of Messrs. Freeman, and P—I P—ll, to pass the notes of the house to country dealers,—among tradesmen in town, or, through any practicable channel that might fall in their way. Mr. Samuel Harris, whose predal pursuits, were of a different cast from those of Freeman, or P—ll, undertook to pass them at OGDEN'S Hazard and E O tables,—at BURLTON'S Faro bank,—and at the private gambling clubs, of which he had the honor to be a member.

Large quantities, and a great variety of mercantile articles, were brought in under this arrangement, by the two former; and a seasonable supply of running cash by the latter. The notes were made payable at thirty one, and forty days sight.

The most remarkable cases in the KING'S report of his proceedings in this enterprize, with persons of rank or fashion; are those of Admiral G—B—R, and LORD M—B—E. The Admiral (whose pleasures were of the most expensive kind, and of course involved him in frequent difficulties;) cast his eye on the KING'S advertisement, at a moment in which he was in want of six

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hundred

hundred pounds. He consequently hastened, without delay, to the shop of Messrs. Dean and Co. in order to procure a *quantum sufficit* of their infallible specific, for *pecuniary embarrassments*.

Having intimated the purpose of his visit, and expressed a willingness to accede to any terms of *immediate* accommodation ;—the signal to proceed was given by the KING ; and, (no lucky presage, or presentiment of danger intervening) two notes, for three hundred guineas each, at six months, were given by the admiral ; who received in exchange five hundred pounds,—*in the Bills of the House*,—and fifty pounds in cash ; the remaining thirty being retained for interest, office fees, and commission.

Having had frequent occasion to raise money among the disciples of Moses ;—probably from the KING himself ;—he departed extremely satisfied with the terms on which he was now supplied ;—heartily execrating, in his mind, the extortions practised upon him at the offices of other MONEY LENDERS.

The disposal of the Admiral's notes was undertaken

dertaken by the KING; who discounted them (through the medium of his accommodating friend JACKSON,) with MR. COLLINS, a respectable banker, at Salisbury. They produced to the *house accompt* four hundred pounds.

Lord M—b—e concluded a similar negotiation, about the same time, for *Eight* hundred pounds; of which he received *one hundred* in cash,—the remainder in notes of the house, payable to his order; which he *indorsed* and deposited with his banker. Having occasion to draw for a part of their amount, he was informed that the notes of Messrs. Dean and Co. could not be carried to his *cash* accompt: he consequently withdrew them;—acquainted Mr. Dean with the circumstance; and requested to have bank notes, or cash in exchange.

Applications of this sort arising from the difficulties that must necessarily attend the circulation of their notes, were not only *foreseen*, but (for reasons that will presently appear) were *looked for* with anxious desire by the KING. Mr. Dean, therefore, informed his Lordship that it would militate against the rules, and PRINCIPLE of the house, to discount their own paper; but

if he would leave the notes, they would *get them discounted* in a day or two, at their own expence.

The extraordinary moderation of Mr. Dean's charges on the tranfaction,—the seeming fairness and liberality of his conduct,—added to a prepossessing openness of countenance and manner; had so fascinated his Lordship, that he invited him to M—b—e-house;—introduced him to several of his friends, as a respectable merchant, (*which he conceived him to be*) and recommended him as a *useful* and valuable acquaintance, to many of his fellow-members, of the club at Goofetree's. He did not therefore hesitate to leave the notes, *without cancelling his indorsement*; or even taking an acknowledgment from Mr. Dean; and was consequently obliged to pay them:—which added to his own note, for eight hundred and forty pounds, subjected him to an irretrievable loss of fourteen hundred and forty pounds;—through his ill-placed confidence, in the delusive professions of an ADVERTISING MONEY LENDER.

Admiral G—b—r, after passing (with infinite difficulty) two notes, of fifty pounds each; being discouraged from attempting to negotiate any
more

more ;—applied, as Lord M—b—e had done, to Mr. Dean ; and received a similar answer :—but not being impressed in so fatal a degree, with the prejudice or prepossession that influenced his Lordship, he retained his remaining notes. Those he had passed (being at forty days sight) did not become payable till the firm of Messrs. Dean and Co. was dissolved ; and the *dramatis personæ* retired to their respective hiding places. Having therefore no remedy, but what must aggravate, or be eventually worse than the disease, he prudently compounded them. The banker, who held his own note under the fairest claim to regular payment ; would listen to no terms of accommodation, or compromise : and the Admiral's finances being unequal to the immediate payment of so large a sum ; a legal conflict ensued ; and several years elapsed without bringing it to a final decision : for the Admiral, pressed by necessity, led his adversary to the last stage of litigation ; but before they reached the *ne plus ultra* of the law, MR. COLLINS died ; and the Admiral, surviving him but a few months, escaped the distressful consequences of an expensive and hopeless contest.

The money, merchandize, cattle, and negotiable securities, that accrued to the KING, his associates,

associates, and assistants ; (exclusive of expences) in the short space of forty six days, amounted to eleven thousand and fifteen pounds : to which Messrs. Stracy and Nichols, two military officers,—an eminent laceman, at the west end of the town,—Mr. Bellamy, a gentleman farmer, of Claypole, near Newport, in Lincolnshire,—and the proprietors of several manufactories, at Birmingham, Sheffield, and Derby, contributed very largely. But the circumstances of their cases being nearly similar to those of Lord M—b—e, and Admiral G—b—r ;—and the *principle* of the plan, as well as the various methods by which it was executed, being fully disclosed, in the foregoing detail ; they suggest no motive to caution, nor any material information, of which the reader is not already in possession. The Editor forbears therefore, to state them at large.

SUCCESS having sharpened the natural avidity of the KING, he set immediately about forming a New Establishment, on the same plan ; which he very soon accomplished. The only change in the party was occasioned by the removal of Mr. Dean, who retired in disgust, through the
KING

KING's attempting to deduct a proportion of his stipend, on account of their breaking up before the expiration of his engagement; which the reader may recollect was for two months.

The illiberality, meanness, and injustice of this proceeding, was resented by all the parties; and had nearly caused a serious quarrel, between the KING, and Mr. John Freeman; who strenuously insisted, that nothing could secure their safety or success, but the strictest *punctuality, honor, and fidelity* in their conduct and transactions, *with, and towards* each other; and, instead of subtracting from Mr. Dean's claim, that a douceur of fifty guineas should be added to it: which was accordingly done, to the perfect satisfaction of every one present, but the KING. The partition meeting, at which this scene arose, was held at the globe, in Hatton Garden.

Mr. Dean was succeeded by *Joseph Collins*, a farmer, near Bromeyard, in Herefordshire; who, (having been a swindler all his life,) did not think it prudent to exhibit himself, in so public a situation without some precaution. He, therefore, assumed, for the present occasion, the habit of a country clergyman; a large wig being found on experiment to be a more effectual, and
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less suspicious disguise than any other. No expence was spared in advertisements, or other means of attracting customers.

A fortnight elapsed without a single application or enquiry. On the 15th day, the KING was summoned to his post, by the arrival of a Mr. Cozens, who wanted to raise a thousand, or twelve hundred pounds, on his personal security. He was but lately arrived from the West Indies, where he possessed a large estate; but had no property in England. Having made several ineffectual attempts to raise money, he was perfectly sensible that he applied to Messrs. Collins, and Co. under great disadvantages; and was prepared to negotiate, without examining too critically, their terms of accommodation. He was therefore exceedingly pleased at hearing, from *Mr. Collins*, that a thousand pounds *might* be procured, on his giving a note for one thousand and eighty; with an undertaking to execute likewise a warrant of attorney, on receiving the money; and, that on these terms, he should be supplied in three days, or have his note returned without expence. The KING being satisfied that Mr. Cozens was a stranger in London; and most probably unacquainted with his person; stepped forward, and concluded the negotiation,
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by taking his note, and ordering an *office receipt* to be signed by Mr. Joseph Harris, as chief clerk, and cashier.

At the time appointed Mr. Cozens called at the office; and daily repeated his visit for a fortnight, without obtaining either note or money. His remonstrances, and importunity were alike disregarded; and every appearance indicated a disposition to take advantage of his confidence, and credulity.

The DEVIL is not always propitious even to his most zealous disciples.—Mr. Cozens represented his case, to SIR SAMUELSON WRIGHT, and described the KING so exactly, that, a warrant was issued against him, at a venture.

The reader is already apprised, that an understanding with the Westminster justices, their clerks, or runners, was essential to the KING's system of depredation; which, in many cases, could not have succeeded, or been attempted, if the vigilant and incorruptible police now established, had then existed. His projects, in the City of London, have, for this reason, been always planned with greater caution; and a more particular regard to his personal safety, than in the Liberties of Westminster.

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But it so happened that he was never on a cordial footing with Sir Sampson ; who had resisted all his efforts, to allure him into a deviation from the strict line of his duty. He was, therefore, thrown into the utmost consternation and terror, by a friendly intimation, from a *thief-taker in waiting*,—expressed in the mystical, but significant words, HORN IS COMING. Though the purport of this hint was known only to the KING ; its *effect*, on his countenance, sufficiently indicated, to Messrs. Collins and Harris, and even to their menial attendants,—the necessity of an immediate retreat ; in which they were soon followed by the KING,—to the great disappointment of Mr. Cozens, and the Bow street myrmidons who arrived too late by a few minutes, to prevent their escape. The danger, however, was so imminent, and the sound of THE HORN so impressive, that the KING's endeavours to re-assemble the gang, were ever after ineffectual.

The stir, occasioned by the appearance of the Bow street officers, having brought the whole neighbourhood to their shop doors ; a clerk in Mr. Jenkinsons's Register office, which was very near to the scene of action, followed the party into the KING's house, where he naturally made enquiry, concerning the business of their visit ;
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of which he was politely informed by Mr. Cozens ;—who received in return such particulars of the fugitives, as proved, beyond a doubt, that, the person he had so accurately described to Sir Sampson Wright, was no other than the KING. He, therefore, preferred a bill of indictment against *him*, Mr. Collins, and Joseph Harris, for a conspiracy.

No sessions having passed at the Old Bailey, since the KING entered his teens, during which he was not in fear, or expectation of indictments ; he had for many years retained some person or other in the office of the Clerk of Arraignment, at an annual salary ; to give him the earliest intelligence of the preferment, and fate of any indictment, that should be exhibited against him. He was, therefore, apprized of Mr. Cozens's proceedings, before the bill was found ; which afforded him an opportunity of attending the court, and putting in bail, before a warrant could be issued.

Though highly gratified by thus taking from his adversary, the power of holding him, for a moment, in *durance vile* ; he was so haunted with apprehensions of the probable consequence of the indictment, that he would gladly have submitted to an accommodation, on any terms :

but Mr. Cozens, being under an indispensable engagement, to accompany a party to Bath ; and being heartily tired of his warfare with the KING ; offered fifty pounds to have his bill restored ; and to drop all further proceedings against him. The KING consented ; and the claims of justice were eluded.

THERE hath scarcely ever been a period in the KING's life, in which he has not, on some account or other, been the marked object of newspaper animadversion ; and, consequently, been engaged in either quarrels, or negotiations, with the Printers, and Editors of the daily papers.

A speech delivered by Mr. Peckham, at the trial of a cause, in Hillary Term, eighty three, between the KING, and a clergyman, (represented in the journal, to have been Private Secretary to the Duke of R—H—D,) had been stated in the General Advertiser,* more *fully*, and in terms more *appropriate* ; than was agreeable to the KING's feelings ;—to which several *cautionary* paragraphs were likewise added, concerning the atrocious practices of *few Swindlers*, and *advertising money lenders* ; which, he was induced, through some strange infatuation or other, to apply to himself.

* The most violent antiministerial print of the time. It was published at the end of Fetter lane, in Fleet Street.

The printer, editor, devils, and compositors, of the *General Advertiser*, having thus, jointly, and severally, incurred his displeasure; were doomed in his determination, and in the *usual stile* of his *decrees* on such occasions, “to be laid prostrate, in succession, at his *royal* feet:” for there is not a cavalier, in christendom, who excels the KING, in the character of BOBADIL.

Having taken a preparatory lesson from Mendoza, † he proceeded, with the chosen witnesses of his intended triumph, to the scene of action.

Though his speculations, on the effect of blustering, were often successful, he had sometimes experienced, to his cost, that there are other guile folks, in the world, than *bullies* and *cowards*:—and, whether from pusillanimity, or presentiment, he felt something, as he passed St. Dunstan’s church, like a disinclination to the present enterprize: and, if he had been alone, would probably have preferred the *certainty* of

† *Mendoza* is often mentioned by the KING as having served him in the double capacity of groom, and instructor in the art of sparring: and though he had quitted his service, for the more profitable profession of a *Prize-fighter*, had continued his instructions, whenever his predatorial majesty was pleased to receive a lesson.

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sleeping in a whole skin ; to the *chance* of a conquest, or even the hope of gratifying his revenge. But knowing the concealment of his real character, *with respect to courage*, to be essential to the preservation of his credit, and consequence, with his clients, retainers, and confederates ; he secretly invoked the aid of his FAMILIAR ; and boldly ascended the steps of *Mr. Parker's* office. A sort of clerk, who attended,—concluding from the style of his dress,—his consequential air,—and the profusion of gaudy ornaments, with which his person was decorated ;—that he was a *Quack Doctor* ; and might prove an excellent customer, in the way of advertisements ; conducted him, at the first word, to his master. Mr. Parker, who perfectly knew the *character* of his visitor, though unacquainted with his *person*, handed him a chair ; on which the following conversation ensued.

The King. “ May I consider this affectation
“ of civility, Mr. Parker, as symptomatic of a
“ disposition to atone for the aspersions you have
“ thrown upon my character ? ”

Mr. Parker. “ Where I think civility due,
“ I am civil : and am always ready to lend my
“ assistance to the refutation of calumny.—But
“ how, Sir, have I aspersed you ? ”

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The King. “ In the only way a man, of your
“ insignificance, could affect my reputation. You
“ have libelled me, in your damned Advertiser,
“ which is a daily disgrace to the liberty of the
“ prefs.”

Mr. Parker. “ If you have any thing further
“ to say, you must be more decent in your lan-
“ guage ;—and, if you wish to be understood,
“ must be more explicit :—but, perhaps, you are
“ ashamed to——”

The King. “ I am *ashamed* of *nothing*, Sir.”

Mr. Parker. “ You have no objection, then,
“ to announce yourself ; or to point out the ar-
“ ticles to which you allude.”

The King. “ That subterfuge, Master Par-
“ ker, wont serve. You must not hope, by
“ *pretending* ignorance, to *escape* chastisement.
“ Look at your scandalous paper, of this morn-
“ ing ; read *there* your offence, and learn *whom*
“ you have offended. Matters of this sort never
“ sleep with me ; and personal satisfaction, or
“ recantation, is the only alternative I allow.”

Mr. Parker. “ When I know your case, I
shall be better qualified to answer you.”

Having carefully examined the paper, and
finding Mr. Peckham's philippic against the
KING, to be the only article of that day,—that
fixed

fixed a direct stigma, on any body's character; he concluded, that his visitor, could be no other than his PREDATORIAL MAJESTY. He, therefore, laid by the file, and, viewing the figure, and countenance of the KING, with a mixture of contempt and curiosity, (natural enough on the occasion;) asked him if he was the gentleman, who had been so terribly cut up, by Mr. Peckham, in the court of King's Bench.

The King. " Yes, Sir, and in due time will
 " take ample vengeance on the miscreant. But,
 " you, who have given a tenfold effect to his
 " abuse, by proclaiming it; and otherwise vilifying
 " me, by insidious hints, and allusions, circulated
 " through the same dirty channel; are
 " an object of more immediate notice. You
 " are now, I hope, sufficiently informed, to determine
 " whether you will do me justice, or
 " not."

Mr. Parker. " Do you often read the General
 " Advertiser?"

The King. " Constantly!"

Mr. Parker. " And yet question my exertions
 " in behalf of justice. Why there is not a
 " rogue in England, of any note, from the prime
 " Minister, to your Predatorial Majesty; that I
 " don't labour, day and night, to bring to the
 " block

“ *block, or the Gallows.* You shall have JUSTICE,
 “ I warrant you, *as far as I am concerned ?*”

The King. “ Your jocularities, Mr. Parker, is
 “ both ill-timed, and impolitic ; for you are more
 “ interested in the business of this visit, than
 “ you seem to imagine. We must, in short,
 “ join issue, either in violent, or conciliatory
 “ measures.—The conductor of a newspaper is
 “ liable, I know, to be deceived by false ru-
 “ mours, and malicious representations ; which
 “ I conceive to be your case, in the present in-
 “ stance ; and am, therefore, disposed to make
 “ reasonable allowances, on that score ; *if any*
 “ *terms of reciprocal accommodation are agreed upon.*”

Mr. Parker. “ No reciprocity can ever subsist
 “ between you and me : but if any thing *excul-*
 “ *patory* be offered, it shall be inserted.”

The King. “ That is, indeed, candid ; but
 “ not precisely to my purpose. I will express
 “ myself more fully. The personal reflections
 “ thrown out by the chief justice, in his obser-
 “ vations on the case ; which bear harder on my
 “ character, than the scurrilities of Mr. Peckham ;
 “ were extrajudicial ; and, for the credit of the
 “ court, should have been suppressed, in *your re-*
 “ *port of the trial.* It is now too late to expunge
 “ them ; but something may be done to take off
 “ their edge ; or, with your cleverness, to turn

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“ the tables on the court.—The Chief Justice
 “ is, of course, *ministerial*; and being, therefore,
 “ *fair game* for the *General Advertiser*; you may
 “ serve him up in your best manner, without go-
 “ ing out of your way. With respect to the pa-
 “ ragraphs, a slight apology for presuming to
 “ interfere in my private concerns, shall suffice.
 “ You must engage, however, to insert nothing
 “ concerning my exploits, in future, but what
 “ has either my sanction, or is written by my-
 “ self. On these conditions I will make a suit-
 “ able quarterly payment; with a handsome gra-
 “ tuity for your services, on the *present occasion*.
 “ I know the importance of such a subject as I
 “ *am*, to a newspaper; and be assured I will
 “ not undervalue my own consequence, to re-
 “ duce the premium, on your *forbearance*, in the
 “ *one case*, or your *exertions* in the *other*. But
 “ every thing, observe, must be avoided that
 “ leads to *investigation*: for, ‘*the more some things*
 “ *are stirred* (according to the old adage) *the more*
 “ *they stink*.”

Mr. Parker, “ To be sure, Sir, you do me
 “ honor, in supposing *me* as great a rascal as
 “ yourself: but your propositions don’t suit me:
 “ and unless you instantly vanish——

The King, “ What mighty consequences
 “ will ensue?”

Mr.

Mr. Parker. “ I shall take the liberty to anticipate the hangman ; and save you from the gallows, by sending you head-foremost through the window.”

This menace being too much in his own stile, to impress him with any serious apprehension, he was about to reply ; when a blow from Mr. Parker brought him to the ground. The room was soon filled from the printing office ; but not till the KING had received so severe a drubbing, from the athletic arm of his assailant, that he was unable for some time to attempt a retreat.

The editor of the paper, who was an Irishman, of considerable abilities, in the line of low humour ; had long been in the habit, of pecking at the KING ; and being now among the spectators, could not find in his heart, to forego so favourable an opportunity of playing him a trick. Retiring for this purpose, with two of the printers devils, as wickedly disposed as himself ; they hastily formed a diadem of pasteboard ; and inscribed on the fillet, in large characters, SWINDLERS BEHOLD YOUR KING. This symbol of Royalty, (being essential to their purpose,) was placed in the most conspicuous part of the outer office : and the devils, accoutred with the

caps and horns of the newsboys ; were posted, like undertakers mutes, at the street door. This burlesque appearance excited the curiosity of the passengers, and collected a numerous mob about the door. The KING's companions having heard the affray ; and seeing something like mischief going forward, thought it high time to shift their station ; but continued loitering on the opposite side of the street, in anxious expectation of the event.

The most amiable traits of human nature are displayed in women. While the mischievous editor, and his assistant devils, were contriving new disasters for the KING ; Mrs. Parker was soothing the anguish of a large contusion on his temple, with *Eau de Cologne* ; and endeavouring to recal his dissipated spirits, by the revivifying application of Godfrey's salts.

Having at length succeeded ;—the KING, unconscious of the honours that awaited him below ;—and having no desire to renew his conference with Mr. Parker,—retired. He was received, at the office door, with three cheers ; and the ceremony of a coronation was instantly performed upon him, in spite of his endeavours to resist it.

Many

Many persons, having by this time got into the office, the place was too much crowded, to admit the arrangement of any other plan of procession, than merely to place him between four *guards de corps*, preceded by the horns, and followed by the various retainers of Mr. Parker's printing office: in this order he was marched, through an immense crowd, to the outside of Temple bar; where the farce ended with his release, amidst the shouts, groans, hisses, and execrations of the populace.—A moment's deliberation determined him to make the best of his way through the Strand: but perceiving, before he had proceeded many yards, that a great part of the mob, (who betrayed strong symptoms of a disposition to carry the joke still farther,) continued to attend him;—and having no immediate appetite for a cold bathing, he turned suddenly into George's Coffee house; and passing through a back door, that communicated with Devereux court, eluded his followers, and made good his retreat to Cleveland row.

The ridicule, and mortification, added to the corporal sufferance which this adventure brought upon the KING, prevented his appearing in public for several weeks. But though his personal exertions were suspended during this period;
his

his inventive faculties, aided by the counsels of Mr. John Freeman ; were assiduously exercised in contriving new exploits, and devising means to enlarge the circle of his depredations ; the result of which will presently be stated.

While his mind was occupied with these considerations, he received a visit from Mr. K——t, a gentleman, as *independent* in his principles, and as well inclined to *bold* speculations, as the KING himself. The purpose of his visit was to solicit the KING's interest with his *young* clients, or any other gentlemen, whose affairs might fall *occasionally* into his hands ;—to procure for him the honour of serving them, with the elegant productions of his *Upholstery* and *Cabinet Manufactory* : and to propose, by way of inducement, to allow him ten per cent on the articles sold through his influence, or recommendation ; for which he “ *would not object to take their bills or notes in payment.*”

A tradesman so adventurously disposed, and furnished like Mr. K——t, with the means of indulging his propensity ; was as necessary to the execution of the KING's plans of depredation ; as a receiver of stolen goods, to the purposes of the lower order of thieves. His only regular as-

sociate

fociate of this sort was the unfortunate Mr. J—k—n, whom he had almost exhausted; and by his execrable delusions, precipitated from affluence, and credit, to a state of bankruptcy. A more welcome visitor, therefore, could not have knocked at his door, than Mr. K——t.

Having heard his plan, he expressed great admiration of its novelty, and excellence; and agreed, without hesitation to adopt it. A further conversation discovered that Mr. K——t occasionally acted as an agent, in procuring, or letting houses; of which he at that time, had several at his disposal. The KING listened with avidity;—became more profuse in his compliments, and civilities;—insisted on his staying dinner;—thought it probable an opportunity of commencing business might occur before they parted;—and assured him that *two years under his auspices, would infallibly put him in a situation to retire from trade.*

Mr. K——t did not perceive the equivoke.— Though possessed of great *cunning*, his portion of intellect was very moderate. He accepted the invitation to dinner.

No man knows better to adapt his bait,—
to

to the appetite of his game, than the KING.—The idea of *acquiring a fortune in two years*, (which he understood to be the KING's meaning) had so fascinated Mr. K——t, that he was ready, before the second cork was drawn, to ride any hobby horse, on which the KING should set him.

The subject of his proposition being again introduced, the KING took occasion to hint, that his recommendation would apply with a better grace, if he was able to mention Mr. K——t as his *own Upholsterer* ; and proposed, on that account, that he should furnish him with a variety of his choicest articles, to be referred to, as specimens of his taste ; for which he would either pay, or make himself responsible. He was answered, that, nothing could be more reasonable, or proper. The complaisance of his guest, on the first essay, encouraged him to proceed step by step, till he actually agreed to let him a house in Dean Street, Soho, (*the rent of which he was obliged to guarantee,*) and to furnish it in the first stile of elegance, on the *credit of their engagement*. A lease was accordingly executed ; and possession given, on the following day.

The importance of *appearances* in great attempts,

tempts, was perfectly understood by the KING. No expence, therefore, was spared in the furniture and decorations of his house; in which he was completely settled, through the extraordinary exertions of his upholsterer, in ten days.

This unexpected stroke of good fortune, dissipated his chagrin; and enabled him, in another week, to collect sufficient courage, to exhibit himself, in a side box, at the play-house.

His consultations with Mr. John Freeman, and other members of his privy-council, in which he was interrupted by Mr. K——t, were now resumed; — and several enterprizes arranged for the ensuing season.

Mr. *Thomas* Freeman, with a person named Lucas, who does not appear to have been employed on any other occasion, were dispatched in the month of March, eighty-three, to Exeter: where the KING had previously provided an office, for the negotiation of bills, bonds, annuities, mortgages, post obits, &c. under the common assurance of liberality, secrecy, and expedition; — of which, notices were circulated on their arrival, through the counties of Devon, and Cornwall.

The Exeter bankers, suspecting this undertaking to be a cover only, for the introduction of a new bank ; did their utmost to prevent its establishment : but their opposition, having no view beyond their own interest ; and, being unable, from their ignorance of its *real* object, to assign any other reason for opposing it ; they turned the jealousy of the public, upon themselves ; and, eventually promoted, what they meant to frustrate.

The KING's purposes were generally too daring and rapacious, to be accomplished by a slow process ; or pursued for any length of time :—his successes, therefore, were more frequently the effect of surprize, than the result of skill. The period allotted for the execution of his designs, against the ancient city of Exeter, and its vicinity ;—was a *month only* from the day of opening ; which he made as public as hand bills, and advertisements could make it. In the first week, (though his agents were restricted from descending lower in their negotiations, than two hundred pounds,) some *bills* were presented for discount ; and drafts given in exchange, at twenty-one days sight, on Mr. THOMAS BUCKLE, of *Clifford's-Inn*, who duly honoured them—*with his acceptances*.

Before

Before a fortnight had elapsed, applications were received, as the KING expected, on other subjects of negotiation, expressed in his advertisements ; but *bills alone* were his object. Messrs. Lucas and Freeman, therefore, were instructed, in such cases, to undertake the business, *whatever* it might be ;—with a reserve only of time, to consult their partners in town, on the method of doing it : and that no doubts, or inconvenience might arise from this delay, to offer any sums in advance, on the *notes only* of the parties ; till their business should be completed. The notes obtained in this manner, amounted to upwards of two thousand pounds, for which, likewise, their drafts on Mr. Buckle were given in payment.

A journal of proceedings and occurrences, was kept by Lucas, and periodically transmitted with the fruits of their labours, to the KING ; who commonly answered them by the next post, with hints, observations, or instructions, as occasion required ; concluding always with a positive injunction to destroy his letters, *and to hold themselves in readiness, to decamp at a moment's notice.*

The facility with which several persons of
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flender pretensions had been accommodated, in the manner above stated; excited the sneers, and narrow-minded suspicions, of a few old codgers, who were unacquainted with the unbounded confidence, and liberality, of *modern money lenders*:—but the copper-plate engraving, from which the drafts of Messrs. Lucas and Co. were printed, being executed with superlative taste; and the paper, (water-marked with the words, GENERAL ACCOMMODATION OFFICE,) incomparably more delicate in its texture, than even bank notes: the generality of the good people of Exeter, were so prejudiced by the prettyness of their appearance, that the bills of the new firm, stood fair to become the fashionable currency.

The sun had but just set, on the eighteenth day of their adventure, when the out-rider of a gauze and ribbon manufactory, in Wood Street, Cheapside, arrived at the Swan-Inn.

The GENERAL ACCOMMODATION OFFICE, being still the subject of much conversation, the Londoner soon became acquainted with the business that was going forward. This gentleman, though now in a servile capacity, had been a linen-draper, in Fenchurch Street;—but, hav-
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ing fallen in the way of the KING, and his ci-devant partner, in the year seventy-eight, (when they figured as merchants, in Love Lane,) he was soon swindled out of the whole of his property ;—and himself made a bankrupt, *on their petition*,—without having the smallest claim on his estate. By these means, he was thrown into the employment, in which he now made his appearance at Exeter.

The partners in the new firm, being from London, he supposed it possible, they might be known to him: his own curiosity, therefore, added to the request of others, with whom he conversed; determined him to take an opportunity, of seeing them the next day.—An accident anticipated his intention. Mr. Freeman passed him in the street, and was immediately recognized. No notice was taken on either side: nor did Mr. White, (which was the rider's name,) profess any knowledge of him, when pointed out, as one of the persons, whom he wished to see.—He took a more judicious, and effectual step.—Without hinting his intention to any body, he waited on the Mayor, and gave him such information, concerning Mr. Thomas Freeman, and his London connections, as determined his worship,

ship, to require the immediate attendance of Messrs. Lucas and Freeman, at his house.—A messenger was consequently dispatched, to the proprietors of the **GENERAL ACCOMMODATION OFFICE.**

The appearance of a *city serjeant*, so close upon his rencounter with Mr. White, whom he perfectly recollected ; explained to Freeman the business of their visitor. Leaving Mr. Lucas, therefore, to his fate, he availed himself of the back door, to avoid an *interview* with the Mayor ; of which he could not clearly foresee the consequences.

Sufficient grounds were collected from Lucas's examination, to authorise the seizure of his papers ; from which, a perfect knowledge of their plan was obtained, and the culprit thereupon committed.

The KING's letters, which Lucas had preserved, notwithstanding his positive orders to destroy them, fell, with his other papers, into the hands of the Mayor of Exeter ; by whom, they were retained, till a proper occasion for producing them arrived.

Freeman,

Freeman, after whom a strict search was made, having no acquaintance at Exeter, in whom he could confide ; and, thinking it unsafe to wait the event of Lucas's examination ; gave up the concern as a lost game ; and set out with all possible expedition towards London. He was overtaken, at a small distance from Exeter, by a returned chaise, which favoured his escape to Honiton ; from whence he proceeded, without danger or apprehension, to town.

The first intelligence that reached the KING, after *Freeman's* arrival, was an account of *Lucas's* commitment, stated from an Exeter paper, in the GENERAL ADVERTISER.

The suspense, and anxiety, in which he was kept for many days, with respect to his affairs at Exeter ;—the fear of Lucas's *peaching* ;—and the dread of being again brought under the lash of Mr. Parker, (which incessantly haunted his imagination,) had so harrassed his mind, that he was almost beside himself.—His joy, therefore, was excessive, on perceiving that his name was not mentioned, in the proceedings before the Mayor of Exeter. Judging, however, upon the principle on which he would himself have acted ;
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he was still apprehensive, that Lucas might be induced, to extricate himself, at *his* expence. His Attorney, and Solicitor general being summoned to his assistance, they advised the immediate removal of Lucas to London; where they thought he might, *possibly*, be admitted to bail. This measure being adopted,—the execution of it was confided to *Priddle*, who presented the culprit in *propria persona*, before the expiration of a week, at the chambers of Mr. J—e B—r, by whom he was discharged, through some irregularity, or defect, discovered by Mr. Priddle, in the original commitment.—Among the securities obtained in this expedition, was a joint note of Mr. V—v—n, and Mrs. B—t S—le, (for four hundred pounds,) the former a clergyman, the latter a maiden lady of fortune, residing at Exeter. — This note being transmitted to the KING, was offered by him, in the way of trade, to Mr. H—m, a linen-draper, near Temple-Bar.

Though the KING's eloquence, and address, in such negotiations, are greatly superior to that of any other gentleman of his profession; he loses many a good thing, by overacting his part:—it so happened in the present case.—The gross flattery,
with

with which he cajoles fools ; and the offers of enormous gain, by which knaves are daily allured to his purpose, in similar transactions ; had here a contrary effect : they induced a suspicion in Mr. H—m, that the note was either forged, or fraudulently obtained. He, therefore, declined the negotiation ; but detained the note, and gave notice thereof to the drawers ; who referred him to their solicitor, (Mr. F—b—k, of Ely Place, to whom, on a proper explanation, and a promise of indemnity, he delivered it up : he was soon after arrested in trover, by the KING, for the nominal value of the note. A bill of discovery, was thereupon filed by the parties : and no mention being made in that bill, of the *letters* found on Lucas, when first apprehended by the Mayor of Exeter, as above stated ;— the KING swore in his answer, “ That he *had never been acquainted with Lucas, or Freeman ;*” and, (being assured his letters were destroyed,) “ that he *had never held any correspondence with either of them.*”—The plaintiffs amended their bill, set forth the letters, and questioned him concerning their authenticity. They were deposited with their clerk, in court, and exhibited to the KING. The first reflection in his situation, determined him to dispatch himself.—A pistol was loaded ;

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and, if the accidental entrance of Mr. DRAGE, (who conducted the law business of his office, and was very much in his confidence,) had not prevented the execution of his purpose ; the next moment had probably been his last.—Encouraged by the soothing conversation of DRAGE, to think more favourably of his case ; he was easily persuaded to lay aside the pistol.—Another confidential agent was called in, and a plan formed, which, if well executed, could not fail to bring him off.

No man living, is more generous in his offers, or more liberal of his promises, than his Predatorial Majesty.—He engaged to pay them on the successful event of their efforts to extricate him, *two hundred pounds*.—They proceeded without delay, to the chancery office.—Fortune favoured their undertaking.—The box of the complainants clerk, in court, was left to the care only of a youth.—Mr. *Drage*, being solicitor on record, for the respondent,—required to inspect, and make extracts from the exhibits: the papers were accordingly laid before him.—The young clerk, (who had been interrupted in a very interesting part of the History of Sir Charles Grandison,) returned instantly to his amusement ; which so entirely engaged his attention, that they accom-

accomplished their purpose, without running the smallest risk ; or employing any extraordinary efforts of genius, or address. The letters were deliberately separated from the other papers, and given by Drage, to his companion ; who, immediately withdrew, and conveyed the important packet to the KING. The amendment was consequently answered, with a repetition of his former asseverations ; and, a flat denial, that any such letters existed. It was never discovered by the solicitor on the other side, by what means he had been defeated ; as the boy, (to conceal his own negligence,) denied that any person had inspected the exhibit.

The *complainants*, being satisfied with the recovery of their note ; and, the *respondent*, in having escaped the pillory ; the proceedings on both sides were discontinued, and the suit remains at this moment undecided.—Drage and his companion were recompenced by the KING, with a douceur of *five guineas* ; a profusion of promises and commendations ; and reiterated assurances of everlasting gratitude !!!

FREQUENT occasions occurred in the KING's negotiations, that required the professional assistance of a *solicitor*, in which he would gladly have dispensed with a *confidant*. To remedy this inconvenience, he made a bold effort to be admitted an attorney, of the court of Common-Pleas.

It has been already hinted, that he articted himself, with a view to this object,—to *Robinson*, his *solicitor-general* : but *his* name was become too notorous in the courts, to suit the occasion. He determined, therefore, (notwithstanding the necessity of his *swearing* to have served a five years clerkship, with the person presenting him;) to apply for a judge's fiat, under the auspices of his newly acquired friend, and associate, Mr. JOHN FREEMAN ; to whom he had never been articted, nor even personally known, beyond the preceding ten months.

The KING being then in his thirty-eighth, or thirty-ninth year, was apprehensive that his age might be remarked, and probably expose him to some untoward enquiries : he endeavoured, therefore, by all possible means, to give himself the juvenile appearance of an attorney's clerk.

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To render his hopes of success more probable, he applied to Mr. JUSTICE GOULD, whom he particularly selected, on a presumption, that the natural infirmities of his venerable age, might favour the deceit.—The event afforded him a subject of exultation.—He withdrew from the judge's chambers, in the flattering persuasion, that he was now *licenced*, to indulge his nefarious propensities; and *invested* with additional powers of depredation.

The next day, being devoted to the celebration of his success, (of which he had much reasonable doubt,) — a sumptuous entertainment was provided, for his associates, retainers, and confederates;—who paid their compliments of gratulation, in due form; and, before they parted, —inscribed his name on the margin of a Law Directory, (with the plausible ceremony of *three times three*,) —among the renowned worthies, whose names are registered in the copious, and formidable list of attornies.

Measures, which appear most likely, in the contemplation of human wisdom, and foresight, to ensure success,—are often found to be productive of disappointment, and mortification.

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There was another ceremony, necessary to the completion of his admission, of which the KING seems to have been uninformed ; or at least, to have considered it as a mere *matter of form* ; in which he had nothing to apprehend ; namely, *his taking the oaths of allegiance, &c. in open court.* His encountering the penetrating eye of L—d L—h—h, was, therefore, unavoidable ; for being obliged to exhibit himself in a robe, (with which gentlemen, who qualify as attornies, in the court of Common-Pleas, are invested for the occasion, by an officer of the court,) he must, of course, be too conspicuous, to pass unobserved by either of the judges.

He attended several times for that purpose, before he could muster sufficient courage to present himself ; but his journal is silent concerning the *sensation* ; from whence this diffidence arose.

His desire to figure as an attorney, at length prevailed. He presented himself to the officers, and had taken the book ; but the first sentence of the oath, in which his name was necessarily repeated, caught the ear of the C—f J—e, who suspended the ceremony : and, finding on enquiry, that the KING, as he suspected, was one of
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the *gentlemen*, whose atrocities, in annuity negotiations, had induced the legislature, to enact various regulations, *on his Lordship's* motion ; by which, many of the evils that formerly attended this ruinous method of raising money, were prevented : and being informed of the artifice, by which he had obtained the fiat of Mr. Justice Gould, he severely censured his audacity, and dismissed him with an intimation, that his character was too well known in Westminster-Hall, to leave him any hope of being admitted into that, or any other court, as a practitioner of the law. He had likewise the mortification of perceiving, that the auditors were unanimous, in applauding this testimony of his lordship's attention, to the *credit* of the *profession*.

Captain F—k a gentleman of family, and a respectable officer in the navy ; having (about this time) been defrauded of bills, accepted by his father, Sir C— F—, to the amount of seventeen hundred and fifty pounds ; — communicated his misfortune to the KING ; and requested his advice. If Capt. F— had acted under a perfect knowledge of the KING's character, (which his visiting him as an acquaintance, pretty clearly proves

proves he did not,)—he could not have proceeded more judiciously ; for, “ to set a thief, to catch a thief,” is an old and approved maxim of policy, that rarely fails.

He listened with eager attention to the circumstances related by Captain F— ; and, being enraged beyond measure, that so rich a booty should fall into any other hands than his own,—undertook to recover the bills;—nor was he long in discovering the perpetrators of this *enviable* fraud : for knowing every possible channel of circulation for bills so obtained ; he traced the exploit, without much difficulty, to *J. Piggersgill*, and MR. THOMAS FREEMAN ; the latter of whom being too modest to avow himself, assumed the name of Whitacre.

The culprits having no apprehension of this untoward discovery, were unprepared to offer any excuse for so atrocious a violation of their *fidelity*, and *allegiance* to the KING ; by which they were bound to deposit, whatever plunder they should collect, *in his hands* ; to be divided, in such proportions, among the confederates, as in *his opinion*, their respective merits, and pretension should deserve.

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The embarrassment, occasioned by his taking them so entirely by surprise, was too visible to escape his observation ; and too favourable to his purpose, to be suffered to pass away, without turning it to his advantage.

Presuming on his ability, to *betray* them, in a *case*, from which *no danger*, or *disgrace*, could thus far *attach* to himself ; he reproached them vehemently, with *unfaithfulness*, and *ingratitude* ;—threatened to give them up to Captain F——k's vengeance ;—set Newgate, and the gallows, before their eyes ;—and, having raised their apprehensions to the highest pitch ; made a sudden transition, to professions of friendship, and esteem !—Expressed a willingness to use his endeavours, and *interest*, to accommodate the matter with Captain F——k ;—Laid fifty pounds on the table, as a pledge of his pardon ; and, on their promising future fidelity, and allegiance ;—condescended—to *take charge of the bills*.

“ *To err, is human ; to forgive, divine.*”

He now waited on Captain F——k, informed him, that the bills were unfortunately negotiated, *for a real consideration*, IN CASH, and, that Sir Charles, therefore, could not avoid the payment,

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of

of his acceptances ; but, might proceed against the *rascals*, who had swindled him, either criminally, or by an action of debt.

This alarming intelligence, drew from Captain F——k, a declaration, that, neither he or Sir C—s, had any *immediate* means, of providing for the bills.

The KING, whose philanthropic exertions, in behalf of the distressed, had excited general astonishment, and afforded ample subject of animadversion, and conversation for twenty preceding years ; must have been strangely altered, if he had been able to forego, so favourable an opportunity, of indulging the amiable, and sympathetic benevolence, of his heart ; in the case of a gentleman, whom he called his friend. His offering, therefore, to pay them as they became due,—*on a renewal of them*, TO HIMSELF, at a moderate date ; may be considered as a matter of course. But the Captain, who might have said with critical aptness,—“ *timeo DANAOS et dona ferentes* ;”—declined the offer, in a manner, which proved he was neither satisfied with the result of his interposition, nor duped by his professions of friendship.

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The KING, whose utmost observation, was on the watch,—perceiving he could not *retain* the bills, without certain detection ; nor be too expeditious in getting rid of them ; — hastened to Mr. S—l—m—n's, a jew attorney, who, on such occasions, was a willing and competent agent. The bills, being put into his hands, for *negotiation*, were immediately transferred to Mr. S—ds, an upholsterer, in Soho ; Mr. M—r, a linen-draper ; and Mr. K—t, of Bond Street, for *eleven hundred pounds* ; of which *eight hundred* were returned by S—l—m—ns, to the KING.

The payment of the bills being refused, they were put in suit by Mr. M—r, and were eventually paid. All the parties, excepting *Freeman*, (whose fate will hereafter be shewn,) escaped with impunity.

The KING's adventures of this sort, so far exceeded all belief, that, the editor has thought it proper, to omit a hundred instances of similar frauds, and manœuvres, practised on gentlemen of small fortunes ; officers ; clergymen ; persons in trade, &c. whose obscurity would make it impossible to authenticate their cases ; and, might consequently give them a fictitious air. The depredations committed on persons of rank, fortune, or

eminence, are, therefore selected, as more generally interesting, because the persons, to whom the facts relate, are universally known.

The KING had learnt from Mr. Teasdale, an indefatigable labourer, in the same vineyard with himself, that the M—s of C——n, having an immediate occasion for two or three thousand pounds, was endeavouring to raise it on his notes. Mr. Teasdale spoke of it as a business in which he was himself engaged; and even intimated, that the profits of the negotiation were devoted to an excursion to Paris, for five or six months, with his dear Mrs. Teasdale; who delighted in nothing half so much as a *jaunt in stile*.

The KING is never more attentive to his interest, than when it least appears to occupy his thoughts.

Having heard too much to listen to the pressing invitation of his communicative friend, to stay to dinner;—he seized the first favourable moment to wish him a good day,—and a pleasant journey, with his dear Mrs. Teasdale, to Paris.

Robinson, his Solicitor-general, was dispatched, with all possible expedition, to Grosvenor square, with

with offers of service to the M——s, backed with an assurance, that a considerable part of the sum he wanted, should immediately be advanced on his note. He gained an easy admittance, and his proposition was favourably received.

The M——s's, unacquaintance with the delusive professions, promises, and pretensions of advertising Money-lenders; added to his natural ingenuousness, and high sense of honor, precluded all *suspicion* from his mind; which was the only principle, that could have guarded him against the united machinations of such bold, experienced, and persevering adventurers, as the KING and Mr. Michael Maffy Robinson.

Allured by the prospect of an immediate supply, on his own terms, he gave his note to Mr. Robinson for a thousand guineas, with that incautious, and liberal confidence, on which the speculations of the KING are formed, in his negotiations with GENTLEMEN; and which GENTLEMEN will always repent, who put their trust in the KING, or in any of his nefarious gang.

The note was immediately conveyed to his Predatorial Majesty, who fearing the ingenuity of his *Solicitor*, examined it with a critical eye; least
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his imitative faculty, in the use of his pen, (by which he had more than once been deceived) should again exhibit him in the humiliating character of the *biter bit*. Being satisfied the note was genuine, he commended his fidelity, bestowed great encomiums on his address, and, in a momentary fit of generosity, presented him with a cheque on his banker, for twenty guineas.

Contrary to his usual practice, in the disposal of swindled notes, (which was instantly to put them in circulation) he carefully deposited his present acquisition in his strong box; and speculating on the probable feelings of the M—s, presented it, when due, for payment. The open countenance, and tradesman-like appearance of Mr. *Thomas Freeman*, recommended him to the KING, for the execution of this part of the business, to which he had no great inclination; but recollecting his late delinquency, in the case of Capt. F—k; and, being assured by the KING that he should be sufficiently attended, to frustrate any efforts of the M—s to secure him; — he could not decently excuse himself. Persons were accordingly posted near the avenues of Grosvenor square, for the purpose of rescuing him, if the M—s, (whose silence had caused some disagreeable forebodings in the

KING'S

KING's mind) should order him to be taken before a magistrate : for the KING's doubts, concerning the firmness, and fidelity, of his accomplices, tormented him with perpetual apprehensions, of being dragged from behind the curtain ; which, he doubtless would have been, in the present case, *if spirited measures had been adopted*. But, alas ! the claims of *public justice*, were lamentably sacrificed to private delicacy ; — the note was paid without objection, or complaint ; and, the KING triumphs to this day, in the sagacity that suggested his speculation, on the gentlemanly feelings of the M—— of C——.

A NOTE for one thousand and eighty pounds, was obtained from Sir J——s E——e ; in which, the honour of *doing* the Baronet, was conferred by the KING, on Mr. *J. Piggerfgill*. The event in this case, (as the KING seems to have foreseen,) was somewhat different from that of the preceding one. The note was immediately negotiated, with Mr. S——n, a wholesale linen-draper, in Lad-Lane, for a quantity of goods, *in*
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his way ; proportionate, no doubt, to the value of the bill ; though they produced but little money under the hammer of Mr. M——ks, the KING's auctioneer — Sir J——s, having received no consideration for his note, and being *unable*, (whatever his inclination might be,) to follow the example of the M——s of C——, refused payment. He was consequently sued by Mr. S——n. and, after a hopeless litigation, in which the proceedings were carried to an expensive length, he gave a warrant of attorney, for the debt, and costs, payable at a distant period, with an interest of five per cent. till it should become Due.

Colonel B—y—t, Major G——r, and Mr. B—r, of the Buckinghamshire militia, experienced in their turns, the fatal consequences of engaging in paper negotiations with the KING.

From the first of these gentlemen, (whose affairs were to the last extremity embarrassed,) he obtained a bill, through the specious Mr. Thomas Freeman, for two hundred and fifty pounds, which he put into the hands of Mr. K——t, of Bond Street ; who, being intimately connected with the noted J—k A—d—n, was very convenient to the KING, in the disposal of surreptitious securities.

securities.—Jack, (whom the reader may recollect in a former part of these memoirs, to have been desirous of an engagement, in the KING's service,) resided, when this transaction took place, at a Slop-sellers, in Oxford Street. He had acquired great celebrity, as *Cecibeo*, and *attorney-general*, to the frail sisterhood; and, officiated with great eclat, as *master of ceremonies*, at their weekly hop, in Queen Street, Golden Square. He contrived, through this connection, to pick up a tolerable livelihood; and, to have a chariot always at command, with one or other of his fair clients, to grace his professional attendances at the public offices, and Westminster-Hall; which excited the envy and admiration of peripatetic barristers, hum-drum pettyfoggers, and bum bailiffs. With the latter, indeed, he was in high vogue; for, being naturally void of feeling, and unrestrained by any moral principle; he was more profligate than any of his fraternity, in the atrocious practice of getting into his possession small notes, or bills of exchange, that were either over due, or not likely to be duely honoured;—for the purpose of loading them with *fictitious* indorsements;—and bringing separate actions thereon: by which, the costs were accumulated to so enormous an amount, as to cause infinite distress; and, in numberless instances, to involve the ac-

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ceptors, and *real* indorsers of such bills, in utter ruin.

The office of worrying Colonel B—y—t, on the joint account of the KING, Mr. K——t, and himself, was consigned to this gentleman.

The Colonel resisted the proceedings of his persecutor, by every legal effort in his power ; but, experienced in the event, that the redress, which hangs on the affidavits of an opponent in a court of law ; or, the answer of a respondent in a court of equity, depends more on the conscience of his adversary, than the merits of his case.

The embarrassments which first allured him to accept the insidious offers of assistance, conveyed through Freeman, by the KING, were so greatly increased by the expences and event of this contest ; and, his sense of injury, and ill treatment, so poignant, that he fell into a state of despondency, and died in a few months, of a broken heart.

A disagreement between A—d—n, and the KING, occasioned a discovery some years after the Colonel's decease, that the answer to his bill of discovery in this case, was *sworn by a proxy* ; and the

the editor hath actually seen *his receipt* for twenty guineas, expressly paid, by Mr. A—, for personating him on that occasion, before the master.

THE liberal spirit of Major G——r, (a gentleman highly distinguished and esteemed in the polite world) having involved him in pecuniary difficulties, which made it necessary to repair his finances with more expedition, than is commonly used by *regular Conveyancers*; he was tempted to address a letter to one of the fictitious characters * under which the KING's services, as a money lender, had for some time been offered to the public. He was immediately waited on by the KING; who knowing his character and connections, considered him an object of too great importance to be committed to the management of any other than himself. The introductory conversation on both sides was nearly the same as hath been represented on a similar occasion: nothing, however, was determined, excepting, that the Major should dine with him the next day.

The KING was exceedingly captivated with the manners, and conversation of his guest; but admired above all, his openness and candour ref-

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* Mr. Osborne.

pecting the state of his affairs ; which enabled him, at once, to decide in what manner he might be turned to the best advantage ; or whether it were proper to engage in his business or not.

The discovery that the Major's resources, and expectations were so far anticipated as to afford no hope of deriving any great advantage either present, or future from his acquaintance ; was sufficient, (according to his common practice,) to have outweighed every other motive, to his holding any further conversation on the subject. But he appears in this case to have been actuated by some unaccountable presage ; or infatuated by the natural elegance, and irresistable address of his client : for he not only professed in his usual stile, to be particularly disposed to serve or oblige him ; but, in proof of his cordiality advanced him a sum of money for his immediate occasions, *without any security whatever.*

The memorandum that follows the KING's minute of this extraordinary incident, expresses his regret that any nonsensical feeling should have betrayed him into so indiscreet an act of generosity ; with a *nota bene*, to reimburse himself with interest at their next interview.

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The Major who had some reason, from the result of this meeting, to think favourably of the KING, repeated his visit in a few days, and dined with him *en famille*. Their conversation concerning the means of removing, or at least alleviating his pecuniary difficulties, was of course renewed; and the Major, having no other than personal security to offer, gave his notes to the KING for nineteen hundred and ninety one pounds. Some of these notes were discounted with Mr. K—t, on the *usual terms of his house*; by which the Major received one third of their amount in bank notes; the remainder in a *small*, but elegant assortment of the matchless productions of his cabinet manufactory; which produced on sale, (*exclusive of the duty, and commission,*) *twenty-five and half per cent.* of the sum charged. The Major, therefore, netted *fifty-eight pounds, fifteen and eight pence per cent.* on his bills: for the same influence, which had impelled the KING to a generous action in the outset, now caused him, (notwithstanding his resolution to *reimburse himself,*) to decline accepting a *douceur*; and, even to give up his fees of agency, on the negotiation!

In the expences of his table, equipage, servants, or any other circumstance, that involved
specula-

speculation, the KING's profusion was unbounded. In whatever concerned the product of an enterprise,—or, the commission and expences, of a money negotiation;—his tenaciousness was so excessive, that he had never relaxed in a demand, nor intentionally suffered an atom of plunder to escape the grasp of his rapacity. He, therefore, reflected with astonishment, on his present conduct; but, concluded finally, that his liberality to Major G——r, was suggested by his DEMON, —and would certainly be productive of some important event.—But, the purpose of his FAMILIAR, was not sufficiently clear to his perception, to induce him either to restore the remaining bills, or to make any return of them to the Major.

After a short time had elapsed, he informed Major G——r, (who was obliged to submit to a temporary retirement,) that he had no hopes of procuring him any further supply, on his notes, but by passing them through the same channel as the former.—It did not suit the Major's situation, to be too critically exact about terms; he, therefore, authorised the KING to dispose of them, as he thought best.—He consequently gave them to Mr. K——t, with directions to carry them to their general account.

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It could not well be conceived, if his minute of the transaction had ended here, that he had any advantage in contemplation from this proceeding: for he was too well acquainted with the Major's affairs to expect they would be *regularly* paid;—and all circumstances considered, must have had more faith than belongs to a jew, if he expected any payment at all.—The amount of the bills that remained in his hands was upwards of a thousand pounds.—It is not in the KING's nature to forego any thing, without reluctance, that bears even an ideal value; or from which any possible benefit can be derived: it is, therefore, probable, that he would have kept the bills after all, if he had not hit upon a method of employing them to the more profitable purpose of duping Mr. K——t; whose reliance, *on being enabled, from two years connection with the KING, to retire from trade,**—laid him open to perpetual manœuvre. The principal object of their connection, was a mere interchange of swindled bills; in which they some times speculated jointly, at others severally.—If the one possessed bills on A, for five hundred pounds; and the other held

* Founded on the equivocal assurance of the KING, at their first conversation on the subject of a commercial connection, above stated.

the notes of B, for a like sum ;—they either agreed upon an equal division of the produce, or by permutation, to stand each in the situation of the other, with respect to the persons from whom they were obtained. By this simple operation the deluded drawers, or acceptors, (though no consideration was received) were rendered in either case irremediably liable to the payment of such bills, or notes.

Mr. K——t being already in possession of the Major's notes, for eight or nine hundred pounds, for which a consideration, (though very inadequate to their nominal value) had been paid ; was differently circumstanced in the present case from that of any other, that had arisen in their nefarious commerce.

The KING's adroitness in availing himself of incidental occurrences, *in his peculiar sphere of action*, is inimitable. He hinted, carelessly to Mr. K——t, that as matters stood between him, and Major G——, it might suit him best to have the *entire* property of the Major's notes ; and that he was willing to resign his claim on those he had just given him, for the trifling sum of two hundred guineas ; as he had no doubt of Mr. K——'s requiting his liberality, with the turn of
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the scale, in some future transaction.—BOBBY, as the KING stiled him, when his purpose required a little good numoured familiarity, had heard much of the Major's *honor* and *respectability*, but not a word concerning his *pecuniary responsibility*; he, therefore put the KING in immediate possession of two hundred guineas.

Having now done with the bills, he acquainted the Major that, he had deposited them with Mr. K—, but had left the terms to be settled between themselves; as he could not in conscience *advise*; much less be instrumental to his discounting them at so enormous an expence. The Major acquiesced; but never thought of *recalling* his notes; and of course thought as little about *paying* them when due. In the mean time they were circulated through the houses of Mr. G——l, a Silversmith in the Strand; and Mr. E—, a Gauze weaver, in Friday Street: and from thence found their way to the escrutoir of Mr. J——n A——n. The slight sketch of this gentleman, given in the preceding case, will suggest to the reader's imagination, what the Major must have suffered from his indiscreet confidence in the KING: and make it unnecessary to detail the particulars of Mr. A——n's proceedings on the bills;—or to enumerate the hardships, vexations, and oppressions,

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that were iniquitously inflicted on him, *under legal colours*.

To bear no rival near his throne ; and to counteract every effort of his ministers, to attain independence, by accumulating the fruits of their labours ; — or to preserve the smallest degree of character above his own level ; — are maxims of policy from which the KING never deviates. The reader, therefore, will not be surprised at any instance of perfidy, baseness, or rapacity, towards those on whom he most depended ; or, that criminal conviction, — loss of property, bankruptcy, debasement of character, or, at best, a diminution of credit, have been the invariable consequences of any connection, negotiation, intercourse, or acquaintance with him.

When the operations of Mr. John A——n, were commenced against the Major, through the medium of a Sheriff's officer ; the KING, procured his liberation, by giving his undertaking to Mr. A——g, in whose custody he was : but extricated *himself* when the term arrived, by engaging Mr. E—— to become bail. Mr. E—— was on terms of intimacy, and friendship with the KING, and had for some time materially assisted him in his negotiations with young men, whose
expences

expences exceeded their allowance ; by supplying them with gauzes of the best texture, from his own manufactory, for their bills ;—and re-purchasing them at a reduced price. His profits, from this traffic, had long been a cause of jealousy, and heart-burning to the king ; who, having no immediate means of practising on him, with any advantage to himself, as in the case of Mr. K—— ; he determined to avail himself of the present occasion, to retard his defection ; which nothing (he thought) would prevent, but reducing him to his primitive state of dependance on the will of his SOVEREIGN. He therefore urged Major G—, on judgment being obtained against him, on his bills, to retire for a few months to the Continent ; assuring him *he* would settle matters with Messrs. K—— and A——n , and that all law proceedings should in the mean time be suspended.

The Major, who would have spurned such advice, if he had conceived the consequences ; yielded to the KING's suggestion : — and, Mr. E—— was of course fixed with the debt and costs in several suits, besides those of K——, and A——n, which, in spite of his exertions to avoid it, occasioned his being made a bankrupt.

THE circumstances of the KING's conflict with Mr. B—c—r, are so blended in point of time, with the further particulars of his communication with Major G—r, that, the latter must necessarily be suspended, till the reader shall be made acquainted with some of the events, which justice hath recorded in the case of the former.

Mr. B—c—r's negotiation with the KING, though only for the discount of his note for ninety pounds, was productive of more serious consequences, than he had ever experienced from any single transaction of his life.—Being perfectly satisfied of Mr. B—r's responsibility, for five times the amount of his note; he did not hesitate to give him thirty pounds in advance, with a promise to conclude his business the next day. Mr. B—r, being in great want of the money, (as may well be supposed, from his applying to the KING,) called daily at his office, for near a fortnight. His visits, producing no effect to his purpose, he addressed several letters to the KING, to which he received no answer: these appearances, being too unequivocal

unequivocal to need explanation, he retired into Buckinghamshire, and gave himself no further trouble about his note, till it became payable. —The thirty pounds he received in advance, with two months interest, were then paid by his agent, at the KING's office : but, the person who received the money, professed total ignorance concerning the note ; and Mr. B——r was arrested *in Buckinghamshire the next day*, for one hundred and twenty pounds, at the KING's suit.

A thousand incidents occur, in the affairs of men, that give plausibility, to the doctrine of predestination : but, few instances are seen, in which an event may, with more seeming reason, be imputed to the hand of fate, than the KING's conduct in the present case.

He persevered in his attempt on Mr. B——r ; and speculating against possibility, carried it to a trial :—a verdict being given for the defendant, an action was thereupon brought, for a malicious arrest ; but, as more than three months intervened, between the commencement of this action, and its coming to an issue, the adventures and occurrences of that interval, must necessarily precede the conclusion of his conflict with Mr. B——r.

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The enormous amount of his law expences ; the sums required to support the numerous branches of his predal establishment ; and, the perpetual contributions, levied on him by trading justices, and their runners, which he durst not resist ;—occasioned such frequent recourse to his treasury, that it was often drained, (notwithstanding his extraordinary success,) of the last guinea : it was, therefore, necessary to reduce his establishment, or increase his revenue.

While he was meditating on this subject, his servant announced to him the Chevalier de Champreaux ; a gentleman, whose adroitness *in throwing a nick*, was superior to that of General S—— ; and, who exercised the happy faculty of *securing a back band repique* ; or, *turning up a knave at all fours*, with more neatness than even ——, or the noted Jack Tethrington. — The Chevalier's professed business with the KING, was to negotiate, in some way or other, a note, which he had won the preceding evening, of Mr. HARMAN, a young gentleman from Antigua, whom the KING had undertaken to instruct in the road to ruin.

Men, who excel in a particular art or science, have, commonly, a strong propensity, to force
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into conversation, their favourite topics. The KING, and the Chevalier, being each super-excellent in his particular line, and, neither of them very reserved ; they quickly formed an acquaintance ; which grew in a few days to an intimacy, and, at length, led them into a connection;—from from which the KING flattered himself, his revenue would be more than doubled. False dice, and other instruments of depredation in *his way*, were procured by the Chevalier, and, his dexterity evinced, by many bold and successful experiments, at the KING's house.

Among the various expedients mutually suggested, for the extension of their practice ; the means of setting up a faro-bank, were taken into consideration. They cordially agreed, that no plan would be more productive ; but, were clearly of opinion, it could not be well conducted, without the superintendence of a lady.

Deborah, the KING's consort, being a mere dowdy, and still more disqualified by her *want of beauty*, for the *duties* of the office ; the task of providing a patroness for the undertaking, fell to the Chevalier. He instantly named Mrs. L——e, not only as the most fascinating woman in England, but the best qualified in every other respect

respect for their purpose; and having an elegant house in O—d B——n street, nothing would be wanting, but the *apparatus* to commence business. The KING expressed his approbation, in the highest terms of compliment to the Chevalier; who was equally pleased that their conversation had taken so interesting a turn; and, being on terms with Mrs. L——e, that authorized the introduction of a friend, *sans ceremonie*, they proceeded immediately to O—d B——n street. Mrs. L——e, was, at that time, under the immediate protection of Lord F—f—d.

As soon as the first compliments were paid, the business was opened to the lady, who acceded to their proposition, and, became a party in the confederacy, without the smallest suspicion that any fraudulent practices were intended.

The KING's susceptibility to the impressions of beauty, soon prostrated him at the feet of Mrs. L——e. The immense wealth she supposed him to possess, (from the Chevalier's report,) had a wonderful effect in conciliating her pride, to the awkward manners, and cub-like caresses of the KING.

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Their views were too obvious to escape the jealous eye of the chevalier, who sorely repented the folly he had committed, in bringing them together : and, to compleat his mortification, he was very soon convinced, by the KING's officiating as her major domo, and doing the honours of the table, that he had obtained in a few days ! what *he* alas ! had in vain solicited for many months.

Nothing could be more vulgar, or *outré*, than the fashion of the KING's habiliment, excepting his manners and address ; both which Mrs. L—— undertook to reform : but her natural humour and vivacity, being unrestrained by any sentiment of kindness, or respect towards him, she could not resist so fair an occasion of entertaining both herself and her guests, by turning him into ridicule. His patience, and tractability, therefore, were put to a severe trial, during the honey-moon of their amour.—She introduced him to her visitors, under the flattering appellation of her "*sweet Caliban*;"—would scarcely ever dine, without calling him several times to her side, on some frivolous pretence or other, concerning his dress ;—to adjust his neckcloth,—correct the operation of his friseur,—or to give a more becoming effect to the *brilliant ornament*

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that closed the bosom* of his shirt*; which she performed with such pointed archness, as never failed to raise a hearty laugh at his expence.

The chevalier, (whom she kept in tolerable good humour, by a little harmless badinage, and permitting him now and then to kiss her hand,) had the gratification to be a constant witness of these farcical proceedings; and, his chagrin was greatly alleviated, by the ridicule she threw on his rival.—His situation, however, was far from enviable; but, the notoriety of his *talents*, having excluded him from the play parties of every place of public resort, his finances and character were nearly on a par: it did not suit him, therefore, to desert a connection, in which he could lose nothing, and from which the most flattering expectations were entertained by all the parties. The KING was, indeed, so infatuated with his golden dream, that, after a few rehearsals, in O—d B—g—n Street, he hired a ready furnished house at Newport Pagnell, for the reception of those, among his visitors and clients, who were not addicted to play; concluding they might be thrown off their guard, in the idle intervals of a country excursion, though too wary to be attracted by the allurements of a London decoy:—or, at least, that

* The setting of the miniature picture, alluded to by SOLOMON DE COSTA. Page 66.

the *agremens* of Mrs. L——, might be made productive in a juvenile party, without shocking her delicacy, by intimating his purpose, or allowing her to participate in the fruits of this collateral speculation.

A small, but select number of such subjects, was chosen from the list of his immediate clients ; among these, were too American gentlemen, named F—n—k, for whom he was negotiating the sale of an annuity of 300l. per annum, on their joint security ;—to whom, therefore, he resolved to pay the first compliment ;—meaning to give himself and Co. a sufficient claim on the purchase-money, to form a bank, for their new establishment, in O—d B—g—n Street. The invitation was accordingly given, and both the brothers engaged to accompany the party to Newport Pagnell. But it so happened, that the younger Mr. F—n—k only accompanied them. He was young, handsome, and accomplished ; and, as was very natural, extremely sensible to the attractions of Mrs. L——e.

The importance of a handsome woman, to the success of any scheme to enthrall *young* men, or *men*, indeed, of any age, stands in no need of preternatural demonstration. But, the KING hav-

ing suggested this idea in the present case, he exulted exceedingly in the symptoms of fascination, that appeared in every look, and gesture, of his young client; and, meditating thereupon, a more considerable draw-back on the price of his annuity, was impatient for the introduction of the box, and dice.

The house was hired of a clergyman, who quitted it abruptly, on the KING's arrival. A back-gammon table, (the common appendage of a parson's parlour,) was, in the hurry of removing, left behind; which gave the chevalier a favourable opportunity of introducing *his own dice*, in the first instance. The interval, therefore, between tea and supper, compleatly empty'd Mr. F—n—k's purse, and accumulated a debt against him of fifty pounds. The gallant Mr. De Champreaux, contrived to throw all the ready-money winnings into the hands of Mrs. L——e, for whom, (when it came to her turn,) he held the box.

The next day was spent in fauntering about the town,—a short airing in Mrs. L——e's coach,—and in preparations for as sumptuous a dinner as the place afforded.

The chevalier, whose repose had been disturbed
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the preceding night, by tormenting reflections, on the felicity of his rival, (who exultingly wished him a good night, as he entered the *chambre a coucher* of Mrs. L——e,) took the first opportunity to express his discontent ; and insisted on the KING's sleeping in a room that lay within his own, while they stayed at Newport.—This point was contested with great warmth and vehemence on both sides ; but was at last decided by an appeal to the lady,—in favour of the chevaliers requisition.—The festivity of the party was a little clouded by this incident : for the KING's fullness withstood both the blandishments and raillery of Mrs. L——e, till late in the evening ; which concluded, notwithstanding, with the game of hazard ; the event of which may be conceived, without the gift of divination.

Mrs. L——e, whose mind was intent on matters, very foreign to the object of their jaunt to Newport, fell into frequent reveries ; from which, she made sudden transitions, to such violent and unaccountable fits of laughter, that the KING expressed serious apprehensions, that her intellects were affected : which he fondly imputed to her regret, of the hasty decision, by which they were decreed to sleep apart. His efforts to sooth her, being conformable to this conceit,—she laughed im-

immoderately,—assured him he mistook her case, and, that abstinence for a few nights, being of very little consequence to *him*, she would, on no consideration, retract a resolution, *on which the happiness of another gentleman, so evidently depended.* To avoid further importunity, or altercation, she retired to her chamber, and the rest of the party soon separated.

The reader has, probably, anticipated in idea, the sequel of this little commotion ; for, being apprized of the tender hankerings of Mr. F—n—k, his availing himself of so fair an occasion, to urge his suit, was a *natural*, if not a necessary consequence : and, it cannot well be conceived, that a Cyprian voluptuary, who had taken such an object as the KING to her bed ; would be deaf, or inexorable, to the solicitations of the young American.—NATURE prevailed, and her new lover was admitted to a full, and free exercise of the KING's *prerogative*.

When the party assembled the next morning, Mrs. L——e was unable to shake off the constraints of *consciousness*, and *apprehension*, till the KING, approaching with his usual familiarity, rallied her on the heaviness and languor of her looks ; and, expressed his hopes, that the com-
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'fortless night she had evidently passed, through his absence, would determine her to exclude him no longer from the felicity of sleeping in her arms.—Perceiving, from this address, that her frolic with Mr. F—n—k, was neither known, or suspected *by the KING*, she resumed her natural gaiety,—owning with her accustomed archness, “*she had spent, indeed, such a night!—that, for the Indies, she would not pass the next alone.*”

The KING, whose extreme vanity would have blinded him to a less equivocal expression of her meaning, was so flushed with her seeming condescension, that he pestered the chevalier, with ironical compliments of condolence, on being so soon bereaved of his triumph: and, retorted with interest, the gibes *he* had thrown out, on the incidents of the preceding day; which, so exasperated the chevalier, that he suddenly withdrew, and, summoned his exulting rival, to an immediate conference in the garden.

The lovers, having never heard of the KING's speculations on the *Perdita*, (related, in a former part of these memoirs ;) and, being totally unacquainted with the sordid principle, on which his connections and intercourse with women were formed; could have no conception, that he was
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mean enough to make the temporary use of his mistress, an article of trade ; or, to tolerate her intrigues, in his own house, on a suitable recompence of his condescension. They had, therefore, made the necessary arrangements, for a sudden decampment. The KING, and the chevalier, were, consequently, interrupted in their party, by the arrival of Mrs. L——e's coach ; to which she was immediately handed by Mr. F—n—k.

The subject of their conversation, was instantly adjourned, for the more important purpose of obtaining an explanation, of what appeared to be going forward.—Mr. F—n—k saw them approaching, and waited for them at the coach door. —Their enquiries, being addressed to Mrs. L——e, she answered, with a *sang-froid*, which indicated *more* than indifference towards the KING, that she had put herself under Mr. F—n—k's protection, and was going to town. This frank avowal of her infidelity, divested the KING, as completely of the powers of motion and utterance, as if bound by a magic spell. Her gallant, who waited only to avoid the imputation of shrinking from the danger of a rencounter ; perceiving his host to be in no condition, or in no *humour* to dispute the point ; recommended him
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to the care of M. de Champreaux,—took his seat by Mrs. L——e, and drove off.

The arrival of such grand visitors, had caused a great bustle, and excited general curiosity among the people of Newport; few of their motions, being, therefore, unobserved, it was not likely, *this* adventure would be long a secret.

The characters and pursuits of the confederated trio, were, indeed, pretty generally known, by some means or other, before they exhibited their persons, (as is customary with great folks,) for the gratification of vulgar curiosity. And there is some reason to suspect, that the gossips of Newport, were in full possession of the incidents, that had recently occurred at the Rookery* ; for, the church bells were set in motion, at the instant Mrs. L——e's carriage moved from the gate; while the shouts and acclamations of men, women, and children, resounded from several parts of the town.

The editor, is not authorised to *assert positively*, that these demonstrations of joy, had any refer-

* The name by which the house was distinguished, *before* it came into the KING's possession.

ference to the elopement ; but thinks it extremely probable, as the populace had vociferously expressed their regret, that the beautiful lady was not paired with the handsome gentleman.

As the outcries of a mob, are sometimes the prelude to other ceremonies, which neither M. de Champreaux, or the KING, had any inclination to encounter, they retired within doors ; where each upbraided the other, as the cause of a catastrophe, which had exposed their cowardice, and utterly disconcerted their plan of operations.—They united, however, in lamenting that Mrs. L——e had pocketed every guinea of the plunder ; and, would probably, betray their intended proceedings to her paramour.—But, these misfortunes being irremediable, they soon turned their thoughts to the situation in which they then stood, with the people of Newport ; and, after some deliberation, determined to retreat, as *soon*, and as *secretly* as possible, towards London.—As it was yet many hours, before nine in the evening, (the time fixed for their departure,) would arrive ; the chevalier proposed to give the KING a few lessons, in the mystical art of controlling fortune, in the games of hazzard, pass dice, and piquet.

Nothing could be more judiciously adapted,
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to reconcile his mind to the present derangement of his affairs, than engaging his attention to the attainment of a qualification, he had long wished to possess, and which, in his hands, would be a certain resource, in the various and sudden fluctuations of fortune, to which a life of complicated iniquity, is necessarily exposed.

A post-chaise attended them at the appointed hour ; into which they entered, without any interruption, or insult, from the good people of Newport ; who, had nothing but a little merriment in view, which the parties themselves, would as freely have indulged, if any other than themselves, had been the subject.

THE KING's time, had of late, been so taken up, between his love affairs, and the business of the new firm, that he felt himself more at leisure, on his return to town, than either suited the activity of his genius, or the state of his mind : he, therefore, desired M. de Champreaux, to hold himself in readiness, to accompany him, at a mo-

J ment's notice, on an expedition, which, he hoped, would terminate more fortunately than the last. The chevalier, obsequiously assented; and, in a few days, they were set down at the Ship, at Brighton.

While their dinner was preparing, they reconnoitred the coffee-houses, and raffling shops; took a turn on the Steine, and looked into the billiard room, at the castle. In the evening, they visited the private gaming houses, and surveyed the card players at the rooms; but, did not appear in these perambulations, to be at all acquainted. — On comparing notes, it appeared that nothing had occurred to either, from which any great hopes of success could be entertained: the presumption, was, indeed, much against them; for, they had particularly observed, that ROOKS were already more numerous, in the places they visited, than PIGEONS.

The chevalier, however, had learned from a brother *artist*, that snug parties were formed by some of the members of the Brighton cricket club, where something might be done, if they could gain admittance.

The KING, who fancied himself a wonderful cricketer, concluded instantly, that his skill and
agility,!

agility in the use of a bat, would be the best introduction imaginable, to their acquaintance;—that his admittance to their private parties, would necessarily follow:—and, being once initiated, that the privilege of introducing a friend, would be a matter of course. From these premises, he predicted their triumphal entry into London, with the spoils of the Brighton cricketers; whose rouleaus, bank-notes, and even loose guineas, were already deposited, by anticipation, in his port-manteau.

He arose the next morning with the lark, and, though the weather threatened to be unfavourable, equipt himself for the field. Several smart showers, however, caused the meeting of the club, to be postponed, to the following day. The KING was among the first who assembled:—as no settled match was depending, his indicating a disposition to play, was a sort of claim on the politeness of the gentlemen present, to admit him; and, being unknown, he was invited to join them. Before the game was decided, many other members of the club, came upon the ground. Their eyes were immediately directed towards the KING, which he attributed, in the vanity of his heart, to their admiration of his extraordinary skill. They were pre-

sently joined by the players, on an intimation of some sort being given.—The suspension of the game, placed the KING in as awkward and ridiculous a situation, as can well be imagined : for it was evident, both to himself, and the spectators, who were very numerous, that he was the subject of the gentlemens conversation ; and, something extraordinary was expected, on all sides, to be the result of their conference.

The KING, being extremely solicitous to recognize some one or other of the party, which might enable him to guess at their motives, and their object ; his eyes were rivited to the spot where they stood ; and, after some time, he discovered that Mr. Charles W—d—m was among them. “ A guilty conscience needs no accuser.”—A recent transaction, in which he defrauded a younger brother of Mr. Charles W—d—m, of four hundred pounds, recurred to his recollection ; and, put it beyond a doubt, in his mind, that restitution would now be required ; but the next minute relieved him from this apprehension. The party separated, and the players resumed their batts. Mr. C—l—n, a Suffex gentleman, (to whose politeness he was indebted for the honour of being admitted among them,) being on the same side with the KING, accosted him on his return,
in

in a tone and manner, which plainly indicated an intention to affront him. The KING was silent. Mr. C—l—n, imputing his *philosophic* coolness, to the dulness of his apprehension; expressed his intentions more plainly, by drawing a pistol from the KING's side-pocket, which he unloaded, and threw contemptuously on the ground.*—He was still unmoved.

No man is at all times alike brave. He had observed, that he was still the object of general notice; and suspected, that more was intended, than he knew. He, therefore, replaced the pistol in his side pocket, and walked deliberately away, without further molestation.—On his return to the Ship, he met a gentleman from London, whom he engaged to dinner, with a view to consult him on the incidents of the morning.

The circumstance of the pistol, had already caused a rumour at Brighton, that a highwayman had been discovered on the cricket ground, and disarmed by a member of the Brighton club.

* The KING wore a dagger, likewise, on the opposite side, which escaped the observation of Mr. C—l—n. The cause of his being thus armed, is stated in the history of his transactions with Mr. Creagh. Page 50.

The KING, (who had no suspicion that it related to himself,) replied to the enquiries of his guest, concerning the subject of the rumour, that it might have originated in the detection of some poor devil of a *pick-pocket*, but there was no highwayman in the case.

The company at dinner, consisted only of his visitor, himself, and M. de Champreaux. The occurrences of the morning, having damped his own appetite, he betrayed a visible impatience, to have the cloth removed, before his friends had half dined. As soon as wine, fruit, &c. were introduced, and the waiter withdrawn, he seized the first moment to impart his grievances; and, concluded his lamentable detail, with requesting the free opinion, and advice of his guest,* on the whole of his case. —The answer was brief, but explicit. “The insult,” he said, “was too gross
“to be overlooked; and, if vigorous and spirited
“measures were not *instantly* adopted, his forbearance, under such indignities, must be imputed to guilt or cowardice.”

* The Editor has been greatly assisted in stating the KING's adventures at Brighton, by the minutes of this gentleman, which are now in his possession, with an attested certificate of their authenticity.

While

While the different methods of executing this purpose, were under discussion, the bottle was so freely circulated, by the chevalier, that the KING was sufficiently inspired, in a short time, to sally forth in search of Mr. C—l—n; having spent nearly two hours, in fruitless enquiries, and boldly exhibited himself, in almost every street in Brighton, he returned, with a firm belief, that Mr C—l—n had concealed, or withdrawn himself, to avoid the tremendous effects of his resentment !

As soon as they had taken coffee, the KING proposed an hour's lounge at the play-house ; meaning to conclude his evening at the rooms : for, idlers at watering places, are as liable to the intrusions of ennui, in the intervals of dissipation, as the votaries of pleasure in Grosvenor Square, or the neighbourhood of St. James's ; to whom, a vacant hour, is a serious evil.

He had scarcely been seated five minutes, on the front seat of the side box, next the stage, when a tap on the shoulder, with a rattan, turned his eyes on——Mr. C—l—n ; who told him, he was deputed by the gentlemen in the opposite boxes, to order him instantly to retire. The KING desired an explanation. Mr. C—l—n promised

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to explain, but insisted on his immediate compliance with the order; and, without further ceremony, pushed him gently towards the door. A cry of 'out with him,' proceeded from various parts of the house; and, the performance, during this operation, was suspended. They were met in the lobby, by several gentlemen, *who were in the secret*, but affected to interpose in favour of the KING; which encouraged him to appoint one o'clock the next day, for an enclaircissement at the Castle.

The gentleman who accompanied him, sat the play out; and, having no intention to concern himself further in the KING's affairs, retired to his lodgings.—The KING, however, was, early the next morning, at his bed-side, imploring his presence, and support, at the appointed meeting; which he positively refused.—He was, therefore, obliged, though with great reluctance, to bring forward the chevalier, whom he wished to have kept in the back ground; as he did not even yet despair of *touching* the rouleaus, bank-notes, and loose guineas, of the Brighton club.

They repaired to the CASTLE, an hour before the appointed time, and, engaged a private room, that was so situated, as to command the entrance

to the coffee-room ; and, enable them to observe every person, who either went in, or came out. At the instant the clock struck one, Mr. C—l—n, accompanied by two gentlemen, passed into the coffee-room ; they were immediately followed by twelve, or thirteen others, whom the KING recollected to have seen, the preceding day, on the cricket-ground ; among whom were Colonel T—l—n, Lord P——b——h, Mr. Charles W—d—m, two Mr. B—d—hs, &c.—Both the KING and his companion, were so alarmed by this formidable appearance, that neither of them had any stomach for the conference. They, therefore, stole out of the house, retired to their lodgings, and kept close the remainder of the day.

He again had recourse to his London friend, whom he earnestly intreated to call on him ; and, after repeated solicitations, obtained his promise to see him *in the evening*.

As soon as he entered the room, the KING deprecated all animadversion on the *past*, and, with great humility, requested his advice on the measures to be pursued as *matters then stood* ; declaring his fixed resolution, to follow his suggestions, *whatever* they might be. It was consequently resolved, that a letter should be written to Mr.

C—l—n, “ imputing his being so numourously
 “ attended, *on such an occasion*,—to cowardice ;—
 “ demanding a meeting, at an early hour, the
 “ next morning, for a *proper* discussion, of all
 “ matters, between them ; and, threatening him
 “ with the discipline of a horse-whip, if he
 “ failed.”

The letter was immediately written, and sent ;
 but, Mr. C—l—n being from home, no answer
 could be obtained. It was near twelve, when the
 messenger returned : the gentleman, therefore,
 took his leave for the night ; and, rested without
 any interruption, from his anxiety, or apprehen-
 sion, about the consequences that might ensue.
 Curiosity, however, tempted him in the morn-
 ing, to leave his pillow before his usual time.

Though perfectly convinced, that “ Discretion
 “ was, (in the KING’s opinion,) the best part of
 “ valour ;” he was not yet prepared to hear,
 without astonishment, that he had ordered a post-
 chaise, at two in the morning, and, with M. de
 Champreaux, set off for London. .

The pusillanimity, manifested by the KING, in
 the occurrences of this expedition, (ill according
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with his boasted pretensions to manly prowess, and valourous achievements,) suggested to the comic pencil of Mr. B——, an emblematic caricature, representing Mr. C—l—n, in the act of stripping an ass, that had impudently assumed a lion's skin; the character and semblance of his Predatorial Majesty, being so admirably expressed in the countenance of the simple animal; that both his features, and the circumstances of his story, are as perfectly remembered at Brighton, as the person and adventures of *the renowned Taylor*.

AS the KING's adventures at Brighton, were brought to an abrupt conclusion, by his sudden, and unexpected flight; the editor thinks it his duty, to acquaint his readers with the motives, which, at that time, were universally understood to have influenced Mr. C—l—n, and his party, in their conduct towards him, as well on the cricket ground, as at the play-house; and, to state the intended sequel of these disgraceful incidents, which, (though unknown to him, before he reached London,) was frustrated, by his precipitate, and well-timed retreat.

Among the gentlemen, (whose appearance on
the

the cricket ground, was immediately followed by a conference with Mr. C—l—n, and those of the club, who were playing with him,—was Colonel T—l—n; the acknowledged protector and *cher ami* of Mrs. R—b—n; who recognized, in the person of the KING, the slanderer, and persecutor, of his lovely *protege*. ~

It was impossible, that the particulars of the KING's treatment of the Perdita,* (as above related,) could be represented to a group of young men of fashion, or to men, indeed, of any age or description, without exciting that detestation, and contempt, which must ever attend the traducer, and oppressor, of an amiable, accomplished, and beautiful woman.

Mr. C—l—n was too young, to have acquired sufficient skill in the science of physiognomy, to read the KING's character in the features, and lines of his face, though obvious to a proficient in the Lavaterian art. Having, therefore, been the innocent cause of introducing him into the party, he was naturally desirous of atoning for the error he had committed, by taking the lead in his

* Vide, Page 79, to 85.

expulsion,

expulsion, and expressing his abhorrence of the wickedness, and malignity, of his heart.

Hence his adroitness, in evincing to the *Perdita*, (who was an eye witness of his gallantry, in both instances,) that his compliment to the KING, was paid under a total ignorance, both of his real character, and of the base, and unmanly treatment, she had suffered from him.

But, though the post of honour was, on this account, assigned to Mr. C—l—n ; every member of the club, was equally solicitous, to inflict on him some signal mark of their resentment, and detestation of his conduct. For this purpose, they determined he should undergo the discipline of a KEEL-HALING ; for which, preparations were immediately made, on board a yacht, procured for the occasion, and stationed in full view of the *Steine*. A complete apparatus was provided for the operation ; and, a chair placed under a canopy, on the quarter-deck, for the *Perdita* ; who had consented to preside at the ceremony. An elegant collation was prepared, on board the yacht, and, a band of musicians arranged in a boat, at a small distance. The office of seizing the culprit, and conveying him to the place of execution, was undertaken by the master
of

of a custom-house cutter ; who disposed a party of his men, in such a manner, as to prevent the possibility of eluding them, if he had not already effected his escape.—A general curiosity was excited, through the town, by significant hints of some grand marine exhibition, being on foot ; which could not have failed to draw a multitude of spectators, to the scene of action, at the first signal.

The ceremony was fixed for twelve o'clock, on the morning of the KING's departure, from Brighton ; which was certainly occasioned by his apprehensions, that Mr. C—l—n would appoint a meeting, in compliance with his demand : for his vanity, did not allow him to reflect, that, the notoriety of his character, and pursuits, (by disentitling him to the claims of a gentleman,) would, of course, protect him from the danger of an honourable conflict. Such, indeed, was the purpose of a resolution, unanimously agreed to, at a consultation of Mr. C—l—n's friends, concerning the notice to be taken of the KING's gasconade : to which, therefore, no answer was returned.

The mortification, and disappointment, occasioned by the first intimation of the KING's flight,
to

to the projectors and promoters of the intended exhibition, may be more easily imagined than described :—and it may naturally be supposed that the *Perdita* was not without her share of regret : but though she lost the gratification of a momentary vengeance, she had the higher, and more permanent satisfaction of being convinced, that his malignant efforts to disgrace *her*, had not only proved ineffectual, but rendered *himself* more odious and contemptible in the public eye.

THE total failure of his late projects,—the peculiar mortifications he had encountered in his attempts to carry them into execution,—and a painful presage of the probable consequences of his attack upon Mr. B——r, pressed so hard on his mind, that he returned to Dean Street, in a state of absolute despondency. His finances were in no condition to afford him consolation ; nor had he any object before him from which he could entertain any reasonable hope of repairing them. The talents, and dexterity, of the chevalier, *might* indeed be productive, but were not a

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resource

resource to be at all depended on : for the difficulty of procuring an opportunity of applying them, (which he had already experienced) was considerably increased by his recent adventures at *Brighton* and *Newport*. Some effort, however, was immediately necessary. An experiment, therefore, on a very humble scale, was agreed upon, as less liable to attract notice, or excite investigation, than a plan more suited to the insatiable rapacity of the KING. A dinner was ordered under this idea, at the *Brawn's Head*, in *New Bond Street*, to which several of his juvenile clients were invited, with a request that each of them would bring a friend. By this method a party of ten, exclusive of the KING and his *Operator*, partook of the dinner. After a moderate circulation of the bottle, cards were introduced, and fixpenny *Vingt-un* was played till supper. The chevalier contrived, at this low play, to collect a sufficient sum to defray the expences of the house, and to divide a few guineas with the KING.

Before they separated, some preliminary regulations for meeting weekly as a club, were subscribed by the party then present ; who mutually engaged their utmost endeavours to increase the society as expeditiously as possible, to fifty members.

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This matter being settled, the KING withdrew for a few minutes, discharged the bill, and ordered dinner to be provided for fifteen, on that day sev'night. He returned, to inform the company they had nothing to pay; and having received their complimentary acknowledgments, of his liberality, and politeness, took his leave.

He was so well satisfied with all the circumstances of this experiment, that he determined, *after a few rehearsals, at the Brawn's head*; to form an establishment on a larger, and more alluring plan. But having no conception, that any man alive could be otherwise than perfidious, selfish, and deceitful, like himself; he was extremely anxious to provide against the treachery or desertion of the chevalier, on whom the success of his operations *as yet* depended. He was, therefore, particularly attentive to his performances, and endeavoured, by continual practice, to make himself master of his accomplishments. To render his services still less essential to his success, he made a full disclosure of his purpose and situation to Mr. D——r, the gentleman to whom he was indebted, (as before hinted) for his literary attainments;—representing to him the immense gain it must inevitably produce;

and concluding, with an invitation to take an active part in the execution of it.

Mr. D——r was too relaxed both in principles and practice, to be offended at the proposal ; and too fond of the pleasures of dissipation, to prefer the drudgery of an academy, or the pious labours of his clerical function, to the gaiety and affluence proffered him by the KING. He, therefore, cordially accepted the invitation ; and at the second meeting of the club, took his seat at the card table as a partner, and co-operator with the KING, and M. de Champreaux. An Irish barrister, of Mr. D——r's acquaintance, was afterwards admitted as a probationer ; and might have filled some of the chevalier's parts with effect ; but before the term of his probation expired, a misconception of some mystical intimation, conveyed by the KING, at a critical point of a rubber at whist ; was so harshly reprehended, as to provoke a more spirited reply, than was consistent with the KING's ideas of allegiance, and subordination. An altercation ensued, in which the disputants were so unguarded in their expressions, that a challenge was given, and a meeting appointed at seven the next morning in Hyde Park. The barrister having no pistols, it was agreed to decide their controversy with swords. The company,

pany, to the great surprize and disappointment of the KING, forbore to interpose, and even broke up without the smallest effort to effect a reconciliation.

Among the persons present, was a Mr. Brown, a young officer, in the army, of considerable expectations, whom the KING had set at variance with his family, and plundered of his last guinea. This gentleman, notwithstanding, was selected to befriend him on the present occasion; for, though implacably vindictive, on the slightest provocation, he never takes into calculation, the effect of similar feelings, on those he hath injured; nor admits the most atrocious fraud, or outrage, to authorise resentment, or justify retaliation.

The reader will naturally conclude, that the favour he wanted of Mr. Brown, was to accompany him, in quality of a second, to Hyde-Park: but the KING's cogitations, are not conjecturable on common principles.

When the rest of the company had withdrawn, he made a free confession, of his unconquerable antipathy to fighting;—intreated him to give information of the appointed meeting; and to procure

procure the timely interposition of a magistrate.

The suddenness of the application, and the manifest distress of the KING, induced Mr. Brown to acquiesce, without reflecting, that his own character might suffer, by such a proceeding; which, however, occurred to him in due time, to prevent his exposing it to the hazard: but, he had no opportunity of communicating his thoughts, or intention, to the KING.—The parties, therefore, met:—the KING being attended by the chevalier de Champreaux;—his antagonist, by Mr. D——r.

The KING's eyes, were anxiously directed towards the avenues of the Park;—but, alas! no magistrate appeared.—Their agreement, to refer their conflict to the sword, precluded even the short respite, which the accustomed ceremonies of the meeting, would have produced, if pistols had been resorted to. His dependence on Mr. Brown, had prevented his committing himself to the seconds, whose services he might have *commanded*.—He was sternly called upon to draw.—Another look towards the nearest entrance of the Park, having put an end to his hopes, of being relieved by the interference of the civil power, he drew his

his sword ; but, instead of rushing furiously on his antagonist, or, even putting himself in a posture of defence, he rested the point on his foot ; disclaimed having any enmity, or resentment, towards him ; and, with *christian-like* placability, proposed a parley.

The seconds, who, for obvious reasons, were desirous to reconcile them, enforced the proposition, and, the swords of the combatants, were peaceably replaced in their respective scabbards.

The necessity of sacrificing their resentments, to the interest of the association, being unanimously admitted ; the only point of consideration, that remained, was, to accommodate the *dénouement* of the meeting, to the *delicacy* ! and *credit* ! of the parties. Various forms of a report, were consequently suggested, to which one or other of them objected.

The KING, whose arrogance was no longer repressed by his fears, would have it represented, that the reconciliation had taken place, in consequence of a wound, received by his opponent, in the sword arm ; and, to countenance this representation, that, he should actually permit an incision to be made, and wear his arm in a sling,
till

till the circumstances were fully announced to the public, and ascertained *by the seconds*, to the members of the club.

The insolence of this proposal, had nearly caused a new rupture, and rendered a pacification impracticable. But the KING, (who had set his heart on the eclat, which such a report of the affair would give him ;) desired it might be understood, that he had no desire to subject the gentleman to inconvenience, or humiliation, without a suitable return ; and would, therefore, recompence his complaisance, with ten guineas.

An intimation, so conciliating to a man, who was not master of a twentieth part of the sum, was not likely to be heard without effect. The *method* was approved, but some addition to the *premium* required ; to which no objection being made, the money was paid, the operation performed, and all parties apparently satisfied. The report was prepared, as agreed upon, by Mr. D——r, and conspicuously inserted the next day, in several of the morning prints.

The habits, pursuits, and adventures of the KING's life, having given him an astonishing facility in reconciling his mind to disgrace and
ignominy ;

ignominy; he met his party at the Brawn's Head, with an air of *confidence*, and *triumph*,—under circumstances, that would have impelled any other man, to banish himself from society. His antagonist, was likewise present, but soon retired; and the business of the meeting proceeded with its usual effect.

Though the operations of the KING, and his confederates, were not so abundantly productive as they *wished*, it appears from his minutes of their proceedings, that several hundred pounds had been divided, from the gains of a few weeks, without either high play, or any extraordinary exertions of *ingenuity*.

The invariable success of their manoeuvres, at the Brawn's Head, evinced to demonstration, that nothing but opportunity was wanting, to the accumulation of riches,—adequate to his most sanguine expectations; he, therefore, hired a furnished house, without further delay, in Albemarle Street, for the reception and entertainment of gentlemen, who had more money than wit, and were willing to dispose of it in *good company*.

AS the Editor's information, concerning the speculations and proceedings at that house, are derived solely from the KING's Journal, the Memorandums that follow, are presented to his readers, in the words of the Manuscript.

October 8th, 1783:

“ **T**HOUGH never more entitled, than of late,
 “ to the countenance and favor of my dæmon,—
 “ disappointment, and disgrace, have resulted
 “ from projects, which nothing but his counter-
 “ acting influence could have frustrated.

“ His caprice hath caused frequent, and sud-
 “ den revolutions in my affairs ;—hath forced me
 “ to exchange the gratifications of a spacious man-
 “ sion, splendid equipage, and a sumptuous table,
 “ for the rascally accommodations of a spung-
 “ ing-house ;—and hath more than once reduced
 “ me, from the honourable situation of a *merchant*,
 “ to the abject, and despised condition of an
 “ UNCERTIFICATED BANKRUPT.—But, to give the
 “ DEVIL his due, he hath as suddenly enabled me,
 “ by some happy suggestion or other, to resume
 “ the *appearance* of affluence, and, after a short
 “ suspension,

“ suspension, { to renew my accustomed depreda-
 “ tions.

“ I sometimes suspect his unaccountable mu-
 “ tibility, to be the effect of jealousy ; for he cer-
 “ tainly hath seldom met with so docile, and ex-
 “ pert a pupil.—If he prove propitious, or do
 “ but stand neutre in the business of my pre-
 “ sent project, I shall soon soar above the reach,
 “ or apprehension, of bailiffs, thief-takers, or
 “ trading justices, and be able to set newspaper li-
 “ bellers at defiance,—purchasing by a seat in
 “ parliament.”

October 9th.

Completed the arrangement of my plan.—
 Don't think it necessary to consult D—r, or
 the chevalier. — The rascals hav'n't a guinea,
 but *may* notwithstanding have the impudence
 to remonstrate against speculations, that are
 as much above their comprehension, as their
 pockets. Both *guineas* and *addresses* are neces-
 sary to the attainment of great objects. The
 latter, with a little of Jack A—r—n's assist-
 ance, shall, in the present case, be my concern.
 No man that I know is so happily circum-
 stanced, or so well disposed, to stand pimp for
 the house as my friend JACK. A *seraglio* for

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the

the accommodation of visitors is a new article in the arrangement of a decoy, and must give us a decided advantage over the numerous rookeries about St James's.

October 14th.

Opened my scheme to M—r—e L—d; obtained two hundred pounds, on my note at six months, for two hundred and fifty,—*with a bonus of eight per cent, on the profits of the concern*, till the note is paid.—An unconscionable dog! — A good bargain, however, upon the whole; as he must trust to *my honor*, — and *may* be made a partner, or proved an accomplice, if necessary. This will operate as a curb, if he should run restiff. No *man of business* should suffer an advantage of this sort to escape him.

October 16th.

Met F—n—k. — Felt a little sheepish.—Soon recovered. — Affected perfect indifference about Mrs. L——e. Dined cordially with him, at the British Coffee house;—no good comes of quarrelling. — Various subjects of negotiation were started. — Mr. F—n—k fancies himself an adept in the arts and finesse of negotiation. Humoured his conceit.—Bamboozled him completely of his coach. — Made some progress in a treaty for his horses. — He must be more cunning

ning than I take him to be if he retain even the harness. We are to meet again; possibly in Albemarle street. I may *there* have an opportunity of revenging the trick he played me at Newport Pagnell; for, thank my dæmon, I am never affected *in reality*, with the weakness of placability. — Curse on the fickleness and folly of women! Mrs. L——e, of all women upon earth, would have—— but no matter; I have great confidence in A——'s ability, to supply the *female department* of the establishment.

F—n—k's *coach* is a grand acquisition; — but the horses must be had. He made free with my *filly*; and reprizal is no robbery.

October 19th.

Subscribed for an Opera box.—Engaged slips at Drury lane, and Covent garden, till parliament adjourns. Informed the party of my proceedings.— They stared at each other; — looked curious,—but asked no questions. — Could not divine, how the Opera or Play house could promote the purposes of Albemarle street; — no great harm in that; my dependance is not on their noddles.

October

October 20th.

Preparations go swimmingly on. — The E O table is arrived; — Cards are *prepared* for Whist and Faro: — the dexterity of Champreaux is astonishing! — no mortal can discern in twelve bundles, that a single pack has been opened! — *his* dependence notwithstanding is on the exquisite properties of his dice. He views them with the extacy of a miser contemplating his hoard; and expatiates with enthusiasm on the *certainty* of their effect; — but doesn't drop a hint how he gets 'em. — The secret gives him consequence, — *may* induce liberties, — and oblige me at all events to retain him. — Reserve borders on rebellion; — I must bring his allegiance to a test.

My scheme has got wind; — is well thought of by the *knowing ones*. — Two *capital performers* have tendered their services; — would come down handsomely to be let in.

October 23d.

Received an application from Lord F—d—g, to raise him eight hundred pounds. — Engaged to procure it in five days; — the business to be concluded in Albemarle Street; — dines with me on the occasion. — Had a long confab with his
lordship

lordship ; — talked most on politics : he is sensible, — but too young to resist the united allurements of *wine, women, and PLAY*.—Will cut up well, if A——n and the chevalier be alert.

October 26th.

A letter from Major G—d—r, announces an intended visit from the celebrated Lady ***** ; — requests my interposition in her affairs.—Will consider any service, or civility to her Ladyship, as a favour to himself.

I will certainly oblige the Major, — *if her affairs are worth attending to*. — She has an alimony, he says, of six hundred pounds a year. — An *alimony* has, I believe, some relation to *crim con*.—and is a sort of novelty in my negotiations. — No offer to accommodate ladies, possessed of such a commodity, has ever yet appeared in a money-lender's advertisement. — Appointed to-morrow, to receive the honour of her ladyship's commands.

October 27th.

Lady ***** was punctual to my appointment. — Though past forty, a considerable share of the extraordinary beauty of her youth, has escaped the ravages of time, and withstood the
blights

blights of a dissolute and profligate life.—She was at first confused ; — communicated her case in short hints, and broken sentences. — Remittances delayed ; — importunities, and insolence, of her trades folk ; — was destitute of credit ; — her Sedan taken in execution, by a dirty officer of the Court of Conscience ; — menaced with other executions, from the same court ; — her jewels, wardrobe, trinkets ! ——— She was too much agitated to proceed : — communicated what she further would have said, through the softening eloquence of a suppliant look.—

The interest a man of gallantry naturally takes, in the concerns of distressed beauty, gave an expression to my countenance, that prepossessed her ladyship in my favour ; and convinced her, that Major G—d—r had not impressed her with too high an opinion of the *tenderness*, and *generosity*, of my disposition. She listened to my assurances of being devoted to her service, with so much condescension and complacency, that I could not for the soul of me forbear *hinting*,— what in all appearance might have been *directly intimated* without offending the dignity, or, distressing the delicacy of Lady *****.

Having made me acquainted with her situation, and being satisfied from my assurances
that

that her embarrassments would immediately be removed ; she gave me her card, engaged me to breakfast the next day, and took leave :—thus ended the business of our first interview.

October 28th.

Waited on Lady ***** at her lodgings in Piccadilly.—She received me graciously ;—was all gaiety and good humour.—I congratulated her on the wonderful accession her beauty had received from the recovery of her spirits. The improvement she said was owing to myself ;—my liberal, and tender attention was the cordial that revived her.—She was certainly the best judge of her own feelings.—Nothing occurred to my recollection that I had either said or done to produce such a change ;—but 'twas not my business to dispute the point with her ladyship, or to set bounds to her *gratitude* : my virtue is neither formed on the principles of *Scipio* or *Joseph*.

Our conversation was so *interesting*, that many hours passed, without my once thinking of Albemarle street :—had an appointment with A—r—n at one,—didn't recollect it till three.—Rose hastily and was going :—Lady ***** started, —asked if I were tired of her already ?—Held me by the arm,—betrayed strong symptoms of cha-

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grin

grin.—A few tender protestations,—an assurance of indispensable business,—and a positive promise to return to dinner, consoled her ladyship,—and procured my release.

A——r——n had been more than two hours in waiting.—Was much inclined to be fullen.—*flattered* him into good humour. No flattery is too gross for the puppy's vanity. Strolled with him to the Cannon Coffee house, by way of reconnoitring.—Jack is endowed with the happy faculty of distinguishing a FLAT at sight ; and applies it with a promptness and dexterity almost equal to the chevalier ; whose talents, (if he had any honor) would be inestimable : but the *best* bidder is sure of him no longer, than till a better offers.—Sat with A——r——n till six ;—nothing like a pigeon appeared.—Advised him to dine at the Cannon ;—desired to be sent for if any thing should turn up.—Pleaded my engagement, and hopped off,

“ For, when a Lady's in the case,

“ All other things, of course, give place.”

The dowager received me with open arms. How fortunate to possess the enviable power of inspiring love at first sight !—it will save a deal of trouble in the execution of my design upon her—*Alimony*.—We dined *tête à tête*.—Her ladyship

ship is no green-horn. She was full of anecdote, and not being *squeamishly* delicate, was highly entertaining.—We were insensible to the flight of time: at two o'clock the watchman announced, a rainy morning.—Would have taken leave;—she insisted it was too soon, or too late to part;—objected the weather;—*looked more* than she expressed.

It isn't in my nature to resist the blandishments of a handsome woman; Lady ***** though approaching her grand climacteric, is indubitably handsome;—her *alimony* too:—I submitted with the best grace imaginable.

October 29th.

We are certainly smoked;—the old fadler* looked impertinent;—shew'd half a mind to accost me as I came out.—Met the GREEKS in Albemarle Street:—two damsels introduced by A——n, for *inspection*, were of the party:—think them but so so.—D——r has picked up a dashing young midshipman, nephew to Admiral Affleck;—will have a large fortune at the death of his father, a Northamptonshire parson:—he dines at the *Decoy*:—I shall look in of course in the evening.

* Her ladyship's landlord.

Proceeded to Dean Street,—informed Deborah of my new conquest,—reconciled her to a temporary resignation of her conjugal rights, in favour of the Dowager.—Deborah is the most condescending wife alive.—Lady ***** will be delighted with this arrangement ; for her ladyship is too warm, and too *experienced* a voluptuary, to be satisfied with the *moiety* of a man.

Received notice of trial, in B—c—r's action, for a malicious arrest.—My putting that matter, was certainly a grand *f. ux pas*.—Even Priddle gives me no hopes ; “ I hav'nt, (he says,) a leg to “ stand upon, and God knows what may be the “ consequence of a verdict.”—This may be a fetch, to enhance the merit, if not the *value*, of his services ; but, whether so or not, this confounded notice has unnerved me ; and, *relaxation* of any sort, won't forward my speculations on the Countess.

October 30th.

Dined and took coffee with Lady ***** , went to Albemarle Street at eleven.—The Greeks were at work on the young tar.—My appearance was well timed ;—his score already amounted to ninety pounds ;—my entrance suspended their operations ;—a settlement, of course, became necessary

cessary ;—he had no money ;—offered his note at a month ;—the winners hesitated ;—I reproved their indelicacy ;—gave him a cheque for the amount, and took his note, *payable to the order of Maurice Lloyd*.—He wished to retrieve his loss ;—lent him another cheque for fifty ;—waited till its fate was decided ;—intreated him not to pursue ill fortune :—my liberality had given me influence,—he left off, and we retired together.—Returned to Lady ***** before twelve

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If I had a spark of vanity in my composition, Lady ***** flattery and fondness, would over-
 set my judgment ;—but *my* mind is, (thank Heaven,) superiour to the weakness of valuing myself on personal beauty ; my glass would otherwise have deranged my intellects long ago.

October 31st.

The good humour which naturally flowed from the conciliating incidents of the night, divested Lady ***** of reserve, and induced a conversation at breakfast, in which she expressed herself, with more freedom, concerning her sentiments, and situation, than I had yet observed.

She

She told me, with a *nonchalance*, which nothing but the habits of *gay* life could have produced, that she has a snug cottage at Fulmer Heath, inviolably consecrated to the orgies of love ;—that Major C—r—t, who, for some months, had been chief performer in the rites and ceremonies of that place, was still there ; but, orders for his immediate removal, should be dispatched, and his office be consigned, in a few days, to my administration.

B——r's affair incessantly haunts my imagination, and drives every pleasing reflection from my mind. Would to God I were well rid of it !—But some cursed thing or other, has always clouded my prospects, and interrupted my enjoyments.—I have sometimes been so harrassed with subjects of doleful presage, as to entertain a question, whether honesty, (*in some degree*,) be not the best policy ; though the practice of more than twenty years of my life, hath uniformly favoured the negative. But thanks to the facility of my conscience, a trifling improvement in my spirits, or circumstances, hath always been sufficient to restore me to my senses, and, of course, to dissipate the delusions of moral meditation.

“ The

- " The Devil was sick,
 " The Devil a Monk would be ;
 " The Devil was well,
 " The Devil a Monk was he.

Entertained S——tz, and Lord F—d—g, at the DECOY ;—his lordship came early.—My young clients, are, to a man, punctual in their appointments to *receive* money :—if their recollection served them as faithfully in their engagements to *pay*, the business of a money-lender, would be more lucrative, than the office of prime minister :—he proposed settling before dinner ;—I apologized for the tardiness of my solicitor,—assured him *his business should be done in the course of the evening* ;—and never made a promise with a more sincere attention to perform. *Perkins** furnished dinner and wine ; WELTJIE †the dessert.

Men whose want of versatility confines their ideas to one object, will naturally excel in the pursuit of it. The chevalier, who is ever on the watch for an opportunity of exercising his dexterity, and never suffers an incident, conducive to the introduction of play, to escape

* Master of the Brawn's Head, in New Bond Street,

† Confectioner to the Prince of Wales.

him ;

him; gave an instance of his address on the present occasion.—Two maggots made a *sorte* from a plate of berts.—He instantly set them in order for a race, and proposed a bet, (which D——r accepted,) on naming the winner. The lure succeeded.—Other maggots were procured, and a spirit of adventure being excited, the whole party was soon engaged in a sweepstakes.

Nothing was more easy than a transition from this puerile sport to a game, *less uncertain*; and more convertible to the good of the house. Whist, Hazard, and Vingt Un were mentioned. The gravity of Lord F——g decided for whist, to the great disappointment both of Champreaux and myself;—who love dispatch, and have always depended on doing a great deal in a little time. Lord F——g declined after the second rubber;—didn't lose enough to pay for the dinner!—He remained near the card table,—and observed the players with an attention more expressive of *suspicion*, than curiosity.

S——z betted freely,—was soon in for a hundred.—No rouleaus or guineas appearing;—and stronger indications of not liking the party being visible in Lord F——d—g's countenance,—I pleaded business with his lordship, and cut.

The

The young FLAT handed me an I. O. U. for the hundred—desired I would settle his losses, and took leave.

Lord F. is too observant to be a visitor for our purpose :—and, (I suspect,) too petulant, and punctilious, to be worth much as a client.—He gave himself many lordly airs at my disappointing him ; and, wasn't satisfied with *all* I could say :—but a very little intercourse with *money lenders*, will cure his impatience, reconcile delay, and familiarize him to disappointment.—Took him to sup with the Countess: Lady ***** was highly gratified,—his lordship perfectly at home ;—forgot his disappointment,—recovered his good humour, and, at parting, restored me to the honour of being his *très bon ami*.

Accompanied him for *appearance* sake, to the end of Bond Street. Returned immediately.—Lady ***** had been alarmed at my going out ;—was charmed with the delicacy of my precaution ;—almost smothered me with her extacies.—Her conduct is strangely influenced, either by habit or constitution :—though impelled towards me by a passion, as violent, and irresistible, as that of the most salacious heroine in the modern records of *crim. con.*—I caught her twenty

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times

times looking lasciviously at me with one eye,—and ogling Lord F—d—g with the other.

The Turks are, of all nations upon earth, the most judicious in their management, and estimation, of women ; who are clearly of no use or value in the creation, but to give pleasure, or to bring profit to their masters.—My reflections on this subject, must be adjourned;—a courtesy from the *fil de chambre*, announces that Lady ***** is undressed, and expects me.

October 31st.

A visit from Lady *****'s landlord, disconcerted our breakfast :—he came, forsooth, to remonstrate against the liberties she allowed me ; and, to insist on her vacating his lodgings immediately.—My interference produced illucidations, that might have weakened, or dissolved a connection, between persons, whose principles were less *liberal*, or less *congenial*, than ours. He reminded Lady ***** , that the terms of their agreement, precluded the nocturnal *visitations* of any other than Major C—b—t,—and Johnson, the life-guards-man, who might pass very well for a gentleman, as he never came in his uniform.—The violation of her agreement, (he said,) for a man like me, would discredit his lodgings, and, perhaps,

haps, bring the parish upon his back, for keeping a disorderly house. My interrupting him at the conclusion of this speech, turned the torrent of his volubility upon me. He was a member, he said, of the society for the protection of trade ; had proofs of what he said,—and, if he caught me there again, would introduce me, in my true character, to the magistrates of Bow Street.—He mentioned several particulars, that convinced me, I should get nothing by the altercation : I retired, therefore, to prevent further discoveries, into the next room, and left him to her ladyship's management.

The lower orders of London tradesmen, are the most obdurate brutes alive.—Lady ***** could make no impression ;—not even for the indulgence of another day,—but, on the insolent condition, of my *immediate* departure :—the circumstances of the moment enforced submission.—Demon of vengeance assist me !

The Dowager followed me to Albemarle Street.—Proposed our retiring for the present, to Fulmer Heath.—My assent, though incompatible with my affairs in town, being unavoidable, another message was sent, to hasten Major C—b—t's removal from the cottage.

The poor Major will think I am destined to frustrate his amorous speculations. This is the second proof he has received in a few months, of the infinite superiority of my attractions.*

A *tête à tête* with an o'd woman, twenty miles from London, in the gloomy month of November! is an engagement, after all, of no great expectation.—Yet, if left to her meditations, the ALIMONY may slip through my fingers:—the Ma-

* Major C—b—t, who had long been a favoured admirer of Mrs. L——ce, had forfeited the enviable privileges of his situation, but a few days, when the KING became acquainted with that lady; who, perceiving his excessive vanity, flattered him into a belief, that her passion for him had induced her to *discard* the Major.—The fact, however, was as follows:—A violent friendship, had for some time, subsisted between Lady ***** and Mrs. L——ce: they lived together in one house;—united in the expences of their equipage, and table;—were inseparable in their amusements, and pursuits,—and seemed in all things, to be actuated by one soul. But this harmony of taste, which conduced to their convenience, and pleasure, in ordinary matters, unfortunately impressed Lady ***** with the same sentiments, and inclinations for Major C—b—t, that were entertained by her friend. They consequently disagreed, and a separation ensued.—Lady ***** had the address to prevail on the Major, to escort her to Fulmer Heath: and, being too licentious in her amorous propensities, to regard the laws of friendship, retained him from that time, in quality of her *chargé des affaires*.

jer's

jor's adventure is a proof in point ;—for *that* must clearly have been his object.

Called on Schutz at the Lothian Hotel ; exchanged his I. O. U. for a note at two months. Called the party together ;—bought their shares out and out for thirteen guineas.

No business stirring in Dean street ;—salaries and law charges going on notwithstanding :—left twenty pounds with *Drage* for stamps, and a week's advance to the gentlemen of the office :—gave *Deborah* two guineas for family expences, with a strong recommendation of frugality. That vixen *Mrs. Sangster* plagues me everlastingly for money, though the children are off her hands. Has called twice at the office this morning ;—says she is half starved ;—better she were quite so.

November 1st.

Held a conversation with Robinson, and my Attorney-general, preparatory to B—c—r's trial. All the clerks attended ;—rehearsed their parts very decently ;—but did not forget their cross examination by Mr. Peckham in *Clemson's* case. D—x—n and W——te, though perfectly *disposed* to be staunch, were staggered by several questions proposed by their tutor, in the assumed character
of

of Mr. Peckham, who I understand has a brief against me;—they must rehearse daily till the trial.—If it be in man to divest them of their pusillanimous dread of the pillory my Attorney-general will do it. He qualified me in three lessons to encounter the impudence of *Serjeant Davy*, the subtilty of little *Dunning*, and even to elude the penetrative sagacity of LORD MANSFIELD.

A man may swear indeed almost any thing in a court of law, without much hazard ; for the impediments to conviction are so numerous, that an Old Bailey solicitor, of any practice, will engage not only to obtain the acquittal of a defendant in a charge of perjury ; but in nine of such cases out of ten, to turn the tables on the prosecutor ; and give him a chance at least, to be exhibited in a wooden cravat for his impertinence. Several unsuccessful attempts to convict me of perjury have been revenged in this way ; and though my adversaries on these occasions have escaped ;—my *counter indictment*, hath in every instance, perplexed the case, and left the public in doubt whether prosecutor or defendant was the guilty person. My blockheads *know* this, but are notwithstanding, as much afraid of the pillory, as if they had not been a week in the office.—Concluded finally
that

that a *new face or two* will be necessary on the trial :—gave eight guineas to my Attorney-general for that purpose;—The old Fox never stirs in any matter of extra costs, without the *ready* :—The chink of the guineas brightened his countenance, and wonderfully improved his opinion of the case :—will attend me this evening, to prepare the briefs, and compleat the evidence.

My accustomed confidence in his skill, and exertions, fails me unaccountably on the present occasion. Yet, 'tis impossible, but the holder of a note, however obtained, must be competent to sue ; there consequently can be nothing to apprehend on the score of damages ; and I shall laugh, perhaps, to morrow, at the superstitious fears, or fancies, of to-day.

“ If this unreserved avowal of my thoughts and
 “ actions, ever meet any other eye than my own,
 “ it will, probably, be imputed to madness or folly.
 “ It is, notwithstanding, a measure of consum-
 “ mate prudence and wisdom ; for, having never
 “ possessed the qualities and dispositions essential
 “ to friendship, or even cordial intercourse ;—I
 “ have no confidential communications : and to
 “ this I am probably indebted for the length and
 “ prosperity of my *reign*. My journal, therefore,
 “ is

“ is to me as a confident :—it enables me to disclose
 “ myself, without hazard of being betrayed ; and
 “ to rehearse my exploits, without incurring dan-
 “ ger, or exposing myself to disgrace. My fre-
 “ quent perplexities, my vanity, or the exulta-
 “ tions of success would otherwise *irresistibly* im-
 “ pel me, (as MIDAS was impelled to discover he
 “ had ass’s ears,) to be more communicative,
 “ than might accord with my interest, or be con-
 “ sistent with my personal safety.”

MY ATTORNEY GENERAL has recovered his
 consequence, and is again my *magnus Apollo* !—
 he introduced two witnesses, who prove incontes-
 tibly, that B—c—r received the full amount of
 his note, in *new guineas*. They were so clear, po-
 sitive, and circumstantial, that I actually be-
 lieved, *for a moment*, I had committed the folly
 they described. Neither of them is yet twenty
 years of age. They baffled every effort of their
 preceptor to lead them from the point. Blessings
 attend them !—I am no longer harraised with
 doubts, apprehension, or anxiety.

A note

A note from the dowager informs me Major C——t is arrived in town ;—desires we may set off for the Cottage to-morrow at twelve ; and leaves the necessary preparations for the journey to me ; taking it, I suppose for granted, that I am really as much at her devotion as my simulation, and her own vanity, have taught her to imagine.—The inducements must be strong indeed that tie me to the apron strings of any rampant old dowager in Christendom.—Trifling concessions must however be made till the alimony is secured :—but Lady ***** exacts more attention, and stricter punctuality, than suits either my habits, my convenience, or my inclination. I am too sensible of my consequence with the *sex* to be the slave of *any* woman, or to suffer the prerogative of my personal perfections to be infringed.

The arrangement of operations during my absence, will require my attendance for a day or two at least in Albemarle street ; for my GREEK associates, though clever enough in *their way*, are mere *Executioners*. They have no mental resources that would procure them a dinner,—beyond sheeps trotters, or alamode beef. Even JACK A——r——n, (*excepting* in the business of a *female menagerie*, or the rascally practices of a

pettyfogging attorney,) is as arrant a dolt as any of them : he is attentive, indeed, to my directions, and treasures up every scrap of my written documents, that falls in his way ; and, (to do him justice,) pursues them with *critical exactness*. But this proves he has no judgment,—no ideas of his own, but on the subjects excepted : for the *best theoretical* instructions, are improveable in practice ; particularly those which relate to the plans and manœuvres of GREEKS : and no man of genius, or discernment, is *able*, in such cases, to refrain from necessary deviations. My immediate inspection, therefore, is so essential to the success, and credit of my plan, that I shall leave town with solicitude and reluctance.

Met Lady ***** at Betty's, in St. James's Street. — She graciously consents to postpone our removal to Fulmer Health for a few days.

N. B. The opera opens on Saturday.—I shall go unattended.—Must not be seen in public with the GREEKS of my own squad. *If* Lady ***** has any creditable connections, a female party may rather promote, than prejudice my purpose ; —at all events, it must be a female party, or none.

The

The GREEKS won't like being excluded ; but the *sic volo, sic jubeo*, are the only reasons I condescend to give on such occasions to my subalterns. A——r——n's corps affords ample provision for the *play-bouse* detachment ; but the *Opera*, which shall be my province, must be supplied with demireps of quality, or at least of sufficient fashion to *attract*, without discrediting my box. The subject shall immediately be hinted to her ladyship ; and a hint will, in my opinion, be sufficient. *Sat verbum sapienti.*

If this plan had occurred to my imagination, in the meridian of my fame and fortune, my clients alone would have crowded my DECOY ; and I might now have emulated in wealth the *Lydian KING* : *—for, having no rival in the essential science of *ways* and *means*, my hours of business were incessantly occupied by the votaries of pleasure or play ; who recompensed my services, by yielding to my most exorbitant demands.

But alas ! “ There is a *tide* in the affairs of men,” as evident in the successive fluctuations of my fortune, as in the ebbs and flowings of the sea : and such has been my ill fate, or improvidence, that whatever I have gained in the *flood*, hath invariably been lost in the *reflux*.

* Cræsus.

November 4th.

MY predictions are commonly verified by events. Master F—n—k's horses have at last found their way into my stable. His coach is already decorated with Lady *****'s arms and coronet :—will come out spick and span at our return.—I have ordered a ready furnished house to be hired with all possible expedition.—Nothing is so irresistible to a woman, as attention. If her ladyship has no previous intimation of my intended compliment, the surprise will give a double effect to my *seeming* gallantry : for she never can suspect, that an equipage so apparently her own, is devoted to any object of speculation, but herself.—A carriage is certainly an indispensable appendage to a stiltish plan of depredation ; and, in the present state of my finances, is a fortunate acquisition.—By saving me two hundred guineas, and, giving me the satisfaction of gul-ling F—n—k ; it serves both my convenience, and my revenge.

Accom-

November 6th.

Accompanied Lady ***** to the Opera.—Met Mr. C—c—l in the lobby ;—had *purveyed* for him on *many* occasions in my way ; no man ever submitted to a *copious* bleeding ; with a better grace, than Mr. C—c—l.—Pressed him to accept a seat *in my box* : he was then engaged, but promised to join us.

This unguarded intimation, that I possessed a box, was too interesting a discovery, to pass unheeded by Lady ***** ;—her ladyship was charmed ;—nothing could more perfectly have suited her taste.—Mr. C—c—l joined us after the first dance. He leaves town to-morrow, to attend Lord E——r, who is dangerously ill :—will renew our acquaintance at his return. God grant I may hail him Earl of E——r !

Gave final instructions in Albemarle Street. Left positive orders that my opera-ticket be used with discretion ;—and that none of A——r——n's nymphs, be suffered, on any account, to enter the box.

The

THE incidents recorded in many succeeding pages of the KING's journal, being too complicated, to admit a strict adherence to the form in which they appear in the original manuscript, the editor is obliged to use the liberty he reserved, (in the commencement of these Memoirs,) of communicating them, when necessary, in the more collected and perspicuous form of a narrative,

November 8th.

NO further delay being necessary, the lovers were conveyed, in a post-chaise and four, to Fulmer Heath: they were received by two beautiful children,—the offspring of Lady ****-*****'s amour with Major G——r; who were brought from their respective schools, to be presented to the KING, as the successor of Major C—b—t, whom they had been taught to regard as their step-father;—a relationship, which they were now told was transferred to his *predatorial Majesty*. The boy was in his twelfth,—the young lady in her eleventh year.—Their youth and innocence, happily preserved them from the horrid reflections, which the shameless profligacy of
of

of their mother, must have since excited. Yet, their puerile inquisitiveness, concerning the revolution that had taken place in the family, caused much embarrassment, both to the KING and Lady *****,—whom they pestered with endless questions, concerning the *numerous* step-fathers, successively introduced to them by their mother ;—expressing particular concern, that Major C—b—t had been naughty,—and soliciting the KING to intercede with Lady ***** to forgive him.

The first object of the KING's solicitude, on his arrival at the cottage, was a survey of the premises, in order to a valuation of the moveables they contained.

Lady ***** was equally assiduous in arranging the various *incentives* to badinage — and other *suitable appendages* of a small apartment, appropriated to the voluptuous rites of Venus ; on whose altar, no mortal ever sacrificed, with more ardency, and devotion, than Lady *****.

They consisted of a few pieces of sculpture, representing the amorous exploits of Jupiter ;—the humours of a seraglio, exquisitely described, in two paintings, by Louis Demere ; presented to her ladyship, by the gallant Lord Sh—d—m : twelve drawings,

drawings, highly finished, from the most lascivious scenes of *the Woman of Pleasure* ;—an elegant copy of that *interesting* memoir, enriched with marginal notes, and observations, from the illuminative pen of Sir Richard S—m—ns ;—Rochester's, and Philips's Poems ;—Mrs. Behn's Novels ;—and the Correspondence of Lady Percy, with Lady Sarah Bunbury, by Tressag de Verge. —Nor was the useful part of the furniture, less conducive to voluptuous gratification, than the ornamental. It consisted of a sofa, two chairs, and a small table, *appropriately constructed* ; the several pieces being so contrived, as by one or other of them, to enable the parties in a *tête à tête*, to realize *any* of the scenes that were there presented to their contemplation.—The mechanism of the chairs and table, was the invention and workmanship of MERLIN ; and had been exhibited, in similar articles, among the earliest specimens of his wonderful ingenuity.—The sofa, (made under the immediate direction of Dr. Graham,) was constructed on the *principle*, and possessed *all* the *essential properties* of his CELESTIAL BED.

The particular care with which the outer door of this *sanctum sanctorum* was secured, had been observed by the KING, in his survey of the premises ;

mises; and excited in him an earnest desire to inspect the interior of what he conceived to be the repository of her ladyship's paraphernalia; or at least something more soothing to his avidity for plunder, than what he had already seen. But no access being allowed to any of the family, the gratification of his curiosity on that subject was unavoidably suspended, till a good dinner, and a few glasses of madeira, having quickened the motion of Lady *****'s pulse,—she delivered to him the wished-for passport to her *Boudoir de l'amour*, with a tender intimation that she would soon follow him.—He received her commands with unaffected pleasure, and instantly hastened to the rendezvous;—but with hopes and expectations widely different from those to which her ladyship meant to direct his thoughts. The reader must by this time be too well acquainted with the KING, to suppose that the sensations excited by the voluptuous objects before him; or even the utmost gratification that ensued on her ladyship's arrival, either consoled, or compensated the disappointment of his rapacity: for though a few amorous adventures are *recorded*, and others *hinted* at in his journal, they appear *without a single exception* to have been the mere result of vanity; or, to have constituted an essential branch of some predal speculation.

K k

Being

Being sensible however on reflection that the *duties* of the office, he now held in the dowager's service, would probably require exertions to which his *natural* powers were unequal, he was extremely pleased at being provided with a stimulus so pleasant, and *speedy* in its operation ;—
 THOUGH NOT THE STIMULUS PRECISELY SUITED TO HIS TASTE : — and before Lady ***** arrived he was sufficiently reconciled to his disappointment, to be in perfect unison with her ladyship, and to give her the proof she wanted, that the air of her *Boudoir de l'Amour* had acted as efficaciously on his appetite, as on those of his numerous predecessors.

Before three weeks had elapsed it was evident to Lady ***** that her plan of retirement was neither adapted to the humour or constitution of the KING. He had betrayed likewise some alarming symptoms of indifference, concerning the settlement of her affairs ; which (judging from a very erroneous estimate, both of his liberality and ability) was in her expectation to have been the immediate recompence of her condescension ; for Lady ***** was not yet disposed to admit, that time had in any degree diminished the value of her favors. She, therefore,
 pressed

pressed him with more than usual earnestness, on the subject of her embarrassments.

Emboldened by so fair an opportunity of bringing his speculation to a test, he proposed her assigning to him her ALIMONY ; in order to his raising the sum she wanted by an annuity ; and to prove he had been more attentive to her concerns than she seemed to imagine,—produced an assignment *ready for execution* ; which she subscribed without any appearance of doubt or hesitation ;—*knowing from repeated experience*, that her trustees must be made parties to render such an instrument efficient to any purpose but *deception* : to which no man living was more capable of applying it with effect than the KING. Having no idea of this defect in the assignment,—and being highly pleased with the ready acquiescence of Lady ***** he expressed his satisfaction in the supposed accomplishment of his purpose, by an immediate advance of seventy pounds : taking however the Dowager's note at a short date, by way of reconciling his prudence to so extraordinary an exertion of generosity. The result of this conference was a mutual conviction, (in their private opinions) that each had completely duped the other ; which very much con-

tributed towards keeping up their spirits, and good humour, for the remainder of the day.

Lady ***** was, indeed, so charmed with the prospect of being relieved from her incumbrances, that, nothing she could devise, for the gratification, or amusement of the KING, was omitted. Flattery, caresses, and the most tender assiduities, were artfully employed to conciliate, and interest his vanity : and, to preclude the approach of *ennui*,—filled the heaviest intervals of several succeeding days, with an *unreserved* communication of the adventures, and occurrences of her life ; of which the following epitome is literally stated from the journal of his predatorial Majesty.

“ When women throw off the restraints of decency, they generally become more abandoned in their profligacies, than men.—Lady ***** a proof in point :—has related some of the principal incidents and events of her life. —Occasion may arise, to turn my knowledge of them to account : *hints*, therefore, must be minuted :—in respect of *particulars*, my *invention* will be always ready, to supply the defects of my *memory*.

“ Prefaced

“ Prefaced her detail, with a fatal instance of
 “ family susceptibility.—The manly beauty, and
 “ amiableness of her uncle ;—incestuous frailty
 “ and fate of her mother :—censured with *sim-*
 “ *pathetic* emotion, the unrelenting barbarity of
 “ her father ; in dooming the dear unfortunate
 “ to *perpetual immurement*, for a mere *fault of*
 “ *her stars* !—Consequent neglect of her own
 “ education.—Was confined to the society and
 “ amusements of the servants hall.—Her extra-
 “ ordinary beauty.—Received overtures of mar-
 “ riage at thirteen from the Earl of T—rc—l,
 “ and Lord *****, (afterwards Earl of *****.)
 “ Accepted the latter, in obedience to her Fa-
 “ ther.—Had not yet learnt to discriminate men ;
 “ —would otherwise have rejected Lord ***** —
 “ Her marriage.—Became pregnant. — Learnt,
 “ during her pregnancy, to read and write !—
 “ Was a mother at fourteen.—Splendor of her
 “ establishment :—her presentation at the castle.
 “ —Universal homage paid to her beauty.—
 “ Experienced new sensations ; — contemplated
 “ Lord ***** *comparatively* ; — selected for this
 “ purpose the handsomest and most accomplished
 “ cavaliers of the court :—the result invariably
 “ unfavourable to Lord *****.—*Harmless* flirta-
 “ tion.—Remonstrances. — Complaints ; — jea-
 “ lousies ;—quarrels.—She had not yet tasted the
 “ forbidden

“ *forbidden fruit*.—Their retirement to the coun-
 “ try.—Birth of another child.—Was haunted
 “ with terrifying reflections on the destiny of
 “ her mother ; — feared she was born under the
 “ same planet :—suppressed every symptom of
 “ levity ;—conciliated Lord ***** with *affected*
 “ tendernefs ;—Was *really* fond of her children.
 “ Lord ***** was good natured ; sensible ;—gene-
 “ rous :—loved her to excess : was every thing
 “ but handsome.—She prevailed on him, after five
 “ years absence, to revisit Dublin. — Maturity
 “ had rendered her more charming.”

“ The arrival of a new VICEROY ;—his confiden-
 “ tial secretary introduced at Lord *****’s.—Ma-
 “ ternal affection !—the fear of Lord ***** ! the
 “ deplorable destiny of her mother !—and her
 “ dread of *perpetual immurement*, were forgotten
 “ in the presence of MR. HAMILTON.”

The KING was here interrupted in minuting
 Lady *****’s narrative by the arrival of a cou-
 rier from London, with the grievous intelligence
 that Mr. B—c—r had that morning obtained a
 virdict against him for six hundred pounds.

An application for a new trial, on the score of
 excessive damages, was the only expedient that
 suggested to him any hope of relief : and of this
 he was almost instantly deprived, by learning
 from

from the messenger, *who had given evidence at the trial*, that his witnesses had narrowly escaped being committed ; and that the verdict was received with expressions of approbation, both by the judge and the audience.

The natural *sweetness*, and *benignity* of the KING's countenance, were too visibly affected by this event, to escape the observation of Lady***-***** ;—she did not however obtain an explanation without much importunity : though unwilling to the vilest crimes, his pride was not easily brought to the confession of a *conviction*. But this difficulty being conquered, the conversation that ensued produced a full disclosure of their respective situations, characters, and qualifications to each other.

Having never before encountered a female, whose principles were so perfectly congenial with his own ;—whose *practical* knowledge was so *extensive*—or who possessed talents so convertible to his purpose, as Lady ***** ;—he determined, at all events, to secure so valuable an associate, by repudiating his DEBORAH ; and conferring the title and prerogative of QUEEN CONSORT on her ladyship : a pre-eminence for which she was indeed *peculiarly* qualified ; being indisputably the *first*, (both in rank and *accomplishments*)
among

among the female subjects of his PREDATORIAL MAJESTY : the arrangement of this plan was however, necessarily postponed by the more urgent business of the moment.

He declared it impossible for him to continue any longer at so great a distance from London ; and equally impossible to exist without her ladyship. There being of course but one remedy, they were set down the next day at a ready furnished house in Park Street, Grosvenor Square ; which had privately been hired in Lady ****'s name, by the KING's direction. He did not forget on the following morning to present the equipage he had provided (as before hinted) at the dowager's door ; announcing its arrival by a servant in the livery of her family, whom she had not before seen.

December 2d.

When the first extacy, occasioned by this agreeable surprize, had subsided ; and due compliments were paid to the consummate taste and gallantry of the KING : they took their seats in the coach, and proceeded to Scotland Yard ; to learn more particularly from *his attorney general*, the proceedings at the late unfortunate trial.

Though

Though accustomed to the severest strictures, and animadversions of counsel;—and reconciled by frequent repetition, to the more reproachful censure of the court; he could not hear, without manifest symptoms of horror, the report of his Attorney-general; which concluded, (in addition to what he had before heard) with the alarming intimation, “ *That an indictment for perjury was recommended by the court.*”

Being too much agitated to rejoin Lady ****-****, he went on foot from this conference, with Mr. Priddle, to Albemarle street. His Greek associates were assembled in full council on several paragraphs and letters, successively inserted in the St. James's Chronicle; containing hints, injurious to their establishment;—and impertinent queries to the managers of the Opera, concerning the proprietor of *his* box; to which the eyes of the audience had consequently been directed on the last night, during the intervals of the performance.

He affected to disregard this attack, and (forgetting at the moment his late rencounter with the printer of the *General Advertiser*) undertook, without their interference, to administer an

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effectual

effectual *quietus* to the printer of the *St. James's Chronicle*.

Having satisfied them on this subject, they acquainted him with their proceedings,—and the produce of their operations in his absence ; which, though far short of his original estimate,—gave full proof of the skill and industry of the performers ; and convinced him that nothing was wanted but *proper* company,—to satisfy the most exorbitant pacity.

His next movement was towards *Dean Street*, where his business had barely defrayed the expences of the office, and the support of his family : for, having left Deborah, at his departure to Fulmer Heath, with a supply only of *two guineas*, she was obliged to have recourse to his clerks, for the means of providing *necessaries* ; which she could not have procured in *that neighbourhood*, on *his credit*.

He was not, however, in a humour to feel much regret, at finding his clerks had been more at leisure than usual ;—for the disastrous result of his conflict with Mr. B—c—r, had considerably weakened his confidence in the predal system, on which the business of *that office* was conducted ;

ducted ; and disinclined him for the present, to a species of depredation, which, by furnishing new subjects of apprehension, might increase the bitterness of his reflections, and render his situation, *if possible*, more desperate. From this time, therefore, to the middle of January, his talents, and attention, were almost wholly devoted to the business and concerns of the Albemarle Street association.

Convinced by the experience of that period, that the hints communicated through the St. James's Chronicle, had retarded their progress, and (if continued,) must shake their establishment to its foundation,—he requested an audience of Mr. B—d—n; wisely purposing, (*on the mere ground of his being deceived,*) to appeal to his candor for a suspension of hostilities, till he should be better informed on the subject ;—and to leave the rest to chance.

The KING is singularly acute *on the first impulse of necessity*, in devising measures and adapting remedies to critical cases: but this advantage (of which no man has greater or more frequent occasion to avail himself) is rendered almost useless to its possessor, by a narrowness of spirit, and principle ;—which added to extreme arrogance, and

the influence of depraved habits ; scarcely ever suffer him to carry his best conceptions into execution.

Such was precisely his case with Mr. B—d—n, who, being merely actuated by his duty to the public ; could not well have resisted his request, if he had pursued his first idea. But pride, like an evil genius, urging him to use menace instead of mild remonstrance,—and to assume KINGLY arrogance, where modest deportment *only* could have served his purpose ;—he received *feeling proof* that Mr. B—d—n was as prompt to correct insolence—as the Printer of the General Advertiser had been, on a similar occasion ; and was forced to retire under such indignities ; and expressions of contempt ; as no mortal could have *passively* endured, whose mind retained the smallest spark of manly spirit or sensibility.—He had likewise the mortification to reflect that his situation with respect to the object of this interview, was rendered infinitely worse,—by his impolitic, and absurd conduct.

His appearance at the Opera on the first night of its opening, after the Christmas holidays, produced pretty strong indications that *his box* was still an object of suspicious curiosity, to a great
part

part of the audience : and clearly proved that the circumstances related by his GREEK confederates, at his return from the *cottage* ; were neither exaggerated, nor misconceived. The *Opera box* was consequently struck out of his Albemarle street establishment, and advertised to be let. But no person being hardy enough to undertake its *purification* ; he agreed to share it, for the remainder of the season, with Mrs. C—b—ll ; who, being *lately* arrived from India, was neither acquainted with the KING's character, nor that of the *Lady* with whom she was to be exhibited, in such an objectionable, and conspicuous point of view.

Mrs. C—b—ll (as generally is the case with ladies who have resided long in India) was possessed of many valuable jewels, which never failed to make a part of her dress, when she appeared at the *Opera*. On one of these occasions, a *Greek* who accompanied the KING, became so *desperately* enamoured of their brilliancy, as to determine, at all events, to gratify his inordinate desire, *by gaining possession of its object*. The effects of this sudden and outrageous passion were too visible on the countenance of the *Greek* to escape the observation of the KING ; whose frequent experience of similar sensations, disposed him to regard the state of his companion's mind, with the most perfect

fect *sympathy* ; and to encourage him with kind assurance of every possible aid, in the accomplishment of his purpose.

The result of his reflections on the spirit of enterprize, so unexpectedly manifested by Mr. D—, was a resolution to leave the *arrangement* of his scheme, (by way of experiment,) wholly to himself : and to engage no further in the *execution* of it, than merely to establish his right to a share of the prize *if he succeeded* ; or, to acquire a power of disgracing, or destroying him at pleasure, *if he failed*.

Mr. D— being a native of Ireland, (where foster-children are frequently regarded by their nurses, and sometimes by their husbands, with greater affection than their own children,) was attended by his foster-father, in the two-fold capacity of a servant, and a *friend* ; to whom his most important secrets were confided. Paddy, therefore, was of course among the *dramatis personæ*, on the present occasion. Their plot was simple ; and the part assigned to the KING as perfectly accommodated to the line of conduct he had determined to observe,—as if the performance had been planned, and the parts cast by himself.

Prefuming

Prefuming on the certainty of success, Mr. D— was impatient to commence his operations ;—but a young lady, who lived with Mrs. C——b——ll, and had hitherto accompanied her to the Opera; having casually mentioned, in the hearing of the KING, that she was going to spend a fortnight with a friend in Hertfordshire ; their project was postponed till the following week.

The KING, whose conduct appears on all occasions, to be sagaciously regulated by the circumstances of the moment; became on a sudden more than usually assiduous in his civility, and attention to Mrs. C——b——ll; and as soon as her friend had left her, *insisted* on having (till she returned,) the honor of setting her down from the Opera. After paying her this compliment on the *two* succeeding nights, he was so perfectly convinced of the practicability of Mr. D—'s project, that the *third* was fixed upon for the execution of it.

Mrs. C——b——ll as usual joined the *Royal* party in their box ; but was accompanied by a gentleman who arrived but that day from Scotland : he was an officer of rank, and her near relation.

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The appearance of a stranger at so critical a juncture, disconcerted, and very much disturbed the KING: for it was too late to adjourn their enterprize; to make any alteration in their arrangement; or even to put Mr. D—— on his guard. He had therefore no relief from anxiety and apprehension, but in the hope that Mrs. C——b——ll's friend would not return with her.

Two ladies who came with the KING retired as had previously been settled, at ten o'clock. The carriage was ordered to return at eleven. At the conclusion of the entertainment he handed Mrs. C——b——ll to the coach, in which, to his great mortification, the gentleman likewise took his seat. The footman was dismissed, and the coachman ordered to *James street*, Westminster.

Mr. D——, with his faithful Paddy, and another Irish friend, had taken their stand near the door that opens into that street, from the bird-cage walk; which they kept ajar, to favour their retreat, if any accident should intervene.

As soon as the KING's carriage approached, two of the party stopped the horses; while the other, (expecting the resistance only, that had been agreed upon, to save the credit of the KING's
valour

valour, and to guard him from suspicion,) advanced with an *unloaded* pistol to the coach door. —Before he could explain his purpose, the *Caledonian* presented himself ;—and in a tone and accent, unlike the well known voice of the KING, demanded his business ;—indicating at the same time, a determination to repel the attack ;—the signal of retreat was consequently given ; and the assailants, retiring within the Park,—not only avoided the probable event of an alarm ; but, by shutting the door, precluded all possible means of *immediate* pursuit.

The KING, who foresaw the failure, and dreaded the detection of their plot, through the unlucky intervention of Mrs. C—b—ll's friend ; and had been thereby thrown into a state of stupefaction ; recovered his faculties of speech and motion, as soon as their escape was ascertained :—and, with a readiness of thought, which he appears to possess in a peculiar degree,—accounted for not seconding the Colonel, in a situation of such apparent danger, by declaring the assailants to be a party of sheriffs officers ; and, that he considered their stopping *his* coach, to be a proof they were in search of him. This explanation was admitted, and, from motives of misapplied delicacy, no further notice was taken of the attack.

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THE *file* of the Albemarle Street establishment, being, in the KING's opinion, materially changed, by divesting it of an article, so important to its purposes, and so essential to its splendor, as an *opera-box*;—and the number of their best and most fashionable visitors, being greatly diminished, by the frequent and pointed hints conveyed through various newspapers, concerning the fraudulent practices, and profligacies of the decoy; he determined to extend the privileges of admission to persons who were expressly precluded by his original regulation. The apartments were therefore opened, as well to those who could boast neither rank or fortune, as to the nobility, and gentry, for whose *accommodation* alone they were intended.—Two clerks of an eminent army agent; an attorney of Soho square; and Mr. H——t, a half-witted linen-draper, of Bond street, were consequently initiated; and very soon acquired an indisputable right to be enrolled among the honourable and right honourable dupes of the decoy.

The KING, however, was aware, from long
and

and frequent experience, that no establishment subsisting by fraud and depredation, can long survive its exposure to the prying eye of public curiosity and observation; than which nothing is more dreaded by the desperate hordes of *Swindlers*, *Sharpers*, and *Advertising Money-lenders*, that infest the metropolis and its vicinity. He, therefore, strictly enjoined his confederates to neglect no means or opportunity of turning the present moment to advantage: by which the profits of the house might yet have risen to an enormous amount, before the newspaper batteries could have driven them from their post: but their proceedings were brought to a *ludicrous* and *abrupt* conclusion, by an incident which no one of the parties had sufficient effrontery to withstand, for a single day.

Among the persons who availed themselves of the privilege of admission, extended by the new regulation to tradesmen, and mechanics; was Mr. E. L——lle, a reputable *undertaker*, and cabinet maker, who had the misfortune to become acquainted with Mr. Jack A—r—n, by frequenting the Cyprian hop, at which Jack officiated as master of *Ceremonies*. A few visits compleatly disencumbered him of every guinea he possessed, or could immediately procure; but, hav-

ing manifested a disposition to *bleed freely*, and further recommended himself to the proprietors, by sustaining his ill fortune, without indicating any symptoms of narrow minded suspicion, as many of his superiors had done ; the want of *ready* money was no impediment to his proceeding : a debt of eighty guineas was consequently added to his losses.

Before the hour of assembling, on the next evening, he had the good fortune to meet a gentleman, whom he knew only as a fellow sufferer ; who gave him such information, concerning the proprietors of the decoy, as convinced him they were a set of sharpers, and had cheated him of his money. He, of course, determined to make his appearance no more at their parties.

His absence, after a few days, produced a visit from Mr. A—r—n, and the KING ; who said their calling on him so soon, to request the settlement of his account, was the mere consequence of an astonishing run of ill luck, which had persecuted them for three successive nights : and expressed great regret that *he* was not one of the persons who had profited by their misfortune. Mr. L——lle pleaded in reply, the effect of *his losses* ; but assured

fured them, when his *ability* accorded with his *inclinations*, they should hear from him.

The KING was too politic to *press* him further, or to cavil at his reply : but, (shifting his ground,) observed that a great addition must be made to the furniture in Albemarle Street, which he might supply ; and proposed his looking over the house for that purpose ; adding, he might send in *any thing in his way*, he should think necessary. Mr. L———He promised he would look in ;—and the gentlemen wished him a good day. He accordingly viewed the house, and began an estimate ; but recollecting how egregiously they had already duped him ; and that his *debt of honour* would afford a pretence for curtailing his accompt ; which they were not likely to forego ; he threw away the pen, and turned his thoughts to the contrivance of some other method of taking satisfaction :—having hit upon a scheme which pleased his fancy, and was practicable at a small expence ; he informed the KING, that his order would be executed in a few days.—In the mean time, he completed five coffins, which, with five halters, were conveyed, by a suitable number of porters, on a day appointed, to the door of the decoy ; each coffin being inscribed, and the halter labelled with the name and office of a *proprietor*.
The

The procession arriving at nine in the morning, the servants who had not long retired from their nightly toil, were in their first sleep; it was therefore a full hour before any person appeared. The singularity of the procession, as may well be supposed, attracted a great number of followers, who, when the coffins were set down, demanded of the porters an explanation of this extraordinary spectacle. The porters were as ignorant as themselves:—but the servants of the neighbouring houses, who mixed with the croud, soon satisfied their curiosity respecting the *purposes* to which the house was appropriated, and the characters of its occupiers:—and having heard numberless complaints of the frauds and impositions practised upon their visitors; supposed this proceeding related to, or was a consequence of some robbery they had committed. The door being at length opened, the coffins, with their appendages, were deposited in the drawing room; and the house minutely inspected by several gentlemen, who suspecting some fatal violence had taken place, insisted on being admitted. *No dead bodies* were found; nor indeed *many living* ones; for the KING, whose hours of retirement were devoted to Lady *****, was too wary to leave either of his *confederates* in *possession* of the premises; but the implements of depredation, distributed

buted through the apartments, evinced, beyond a doubt, they were appropriated to every species of gaming: and the names inscribed on the coffins, afforded a proof almost equal to demonstration, that their establishment was supported by *unfair play*.

Such was the report made by the gentlemen to the people without; who would instantly have set to work on the house and furniture; but were diverted from their purpose by an assurance that the house was let *ready furnished*; and contained nothing that belonged to the tenants, but the implements of their nefarious trade;—which being brought out were immediately demolished, to the great satisfaction of the neighbourhood; which was cleared as completely of the KING and his confederates by this ludicrous procedure, as if the whole gang had *executed justice on themselves*, and been consigned *to the undertaker*.

January 23d. 1784.

This sudden failure of his sheet anchor, at a moment, in which storms were visibly impending from various points, affected the KING with dreadful sensations of alarm. The *term* had commenced, and Mr. B—c—r was of course within three days of being entitled to final judgment
on

on his verdict.—Invocations were *devoutly* addressed to his DEMON :—but no source of hope,—no flattering presage of *infernal aid* being vouchsafed : he resorted to the last experiment of *legal chicane*. A writ of error was ordered, and notice of taxing costs required in due form, from Mr. B—c—r's solicitor ; who perfectly understood the motive of this proceeding ; and proved he was too expert in manœuvre to be taken by surprize.

The required notice was however given, and his bill prepared for judicial investigation :—the master attended, and the KING was punctual to a moment ;—but Mr. W——y, who had no intention to expose himself to the service of a writ of error, was employed to a better purpose for his client, than in wrangling for six and eightpenny attendances. Instead of pressing his claim, with the usual vigour, and rapacity of the general class of attornies, he wisely *waved the whole of his costs* ; and suing out execution, proceeded with all possible expedition to the KING's house ;—while the KING himself was waiting his arrival, and enjoying, by anticipation, the pleasure of his intended triumph, *at the master's office*.

Nothing could exceed the consternation, rage, and mortification with which he was overwhelmed,

whelmed, on being convinced through *ocular demonstration* that his purposes were utterly frustrated by this admirable stroke of generalship ;—which he could not be persuaded to *credit* on the *first* report,—having no conception that such a manœuvre was practicable, on the rules and principles of *law tactics*.

At a general meeting of his privy council on this, and other critical circumstances of his situation ; it was unanimously determined, that a docket should be struck, and the spoil rescued from Mr. B—c—r by a commission of bankruptcy :—and, before they broke up, the part of petitioning creditor was undertaken by Mr. Gr—n—ll ; who, with Ab—m S—m—ns, and Mr. Jack A—r—n, were declared *assignees elect*.—Under this arrangement he had the satisfaction, in less than ten days, to be announced in the gazette, and to see the possession of his house and effects transferred from the Sheriff of Middlesex, to the Commissioners of *Bankrupts*.

The removal of his family being now required, he placed them in a small lodging in the parish of Lambeth ; and retired with the DOWAGER, in doleful mood, to *Fulmer beath* ; leaving to his assignees

the necessary proceedings towards getting his certificate.

Before the change of scene could have produced any salutary effect on the KING's mind; or the perturbation occasioned by the direful events of the preceding month, had in any degree subsided; his feelings were harrassed with a *new*, though not *unexpected* cause of vexation. On the 5th day of their retirement he received intelligence from his Old Bailey correspondent, *that a bill of indictment was found against him on the prosecution of Mr. B—c—r, for WILFULL AND CORRUPT PERJURY: and a warrant issued to apprehend him, on the motion of Mr. Rose.*

Though numerous indictments of the *same kind* had been preferred against him at former periods; no case had arisen in which his apprehensions were ever so deeply impressed as in the present. His mind was indeed so debilitated by his late defeats and humiliations, that he resolved, in a paroxysm of despondency, to throw himself upon the clemency of Mr. W—l—y; and actually hastened for that purpose to town. His first concern, however, was to bail the indictment; for which he took care to provide, before he ventured to appear abroad. This point being accomplished,

ed, he proceeded to try the effect of his oratory on Mr. W—l—y. He approached him with deference and humility; and addressed him in a strain the most abject that guilt and cowardice could dictate: but failing in the *essential argument*,—he pleaded with no other consequence than contributing to the gratification, and exposing himself to the ridicule, and contempt of his opponent. He returned, therefore, to the cottage with no other improvement in the state of his affairs, than a temporary exemption from the visit of a police messenger, or the official intrusion of the constable of the district.

Extraordinary dispatch being used in fabricating his *certificate*, he was gratified, before the middle of March, with an opportunity of reading to Lady ***** an official notice of its allowance in the *gazette*; from which he took occasion to observe that a stronger, or more unequivocal proof of his *integrity*!—or of the *respect* and esteem of his creditors! could not be given; than the facility, and expedition, with which this important instrument had been obtained: assuring her it would *re-establish* him in another month, and enable him to requite vengeance for the mortifications he had endured. But his frequent agitation, and the anxiety which continually

clouded his brow, evinced to her ladyship, that his prospects were not in all respects so bright and promising, as he represented them; regard therefore to *her own interest and convenience*, made her still dread the final issue; and gave her an air of *solicitude* which, appearing to the KING to be more expressive of alarm than sympathy, he renewed his assurances that all would be well, and Halcyon days infallibly succeed: nor did he cease plying her with tender assiduities, and professions, till every symptom of apprehension disappeared: for both her *talents* and *alimony* were rendered too important by the circumstances of his situation, to be left a moment to the hazard of prudential meditations.

Frequent intervals of leisure,—the want of amusement—and a desire to divert the KING, induced the dowager to resume the narrative of her adventures, which he minuted as before:—continuing his hints, from the introduction of Mr. Hamilton* at Lord ****'s; an event which decided the destiny of her ladyship, and precipitated her through progressive stages of dishonour, to the lamentable state of *infamy*, and *degradation*, into which she had now plunged.

* The supposed author of JUNIUS: to whose name the title of *Single Speech* was added, from his delivering *one* of the best speeches, that was ever heard, in the Irish House of Commons; (being his maiden speech,) and never speaking afterwards.

These

These minutes as far as they relate to incidents or occurrences, that are not common in the history of *every woman of pleasure*, will appear hereafter. Details more essential to the purpose for which these Memoirs are submitted to the public claim *precedency*, and require to be stated with as little interruption as possible.

THE advertisements of the KING's certificate, and of the sale of his effects, conveyed the first intelligence of his bankruptcy to Mr. G——nt, from whom he obtained, on the recommendation of Mr. JOHN FREEMAN, as before stated, three hundred pounds.* Mr. G——nt having acquired sufficient knowledge of the KING to suspect his bankruptcy to be nothing more than a mere manœuvre to accomplish some fraudulent purpose, came to London. His suspicion being confirmed by enquiry,—and having got intelligence of the KING's retreat, he presented himself at the cottage;—civilly requesting the payment of his bond.—This application being made on the day his certificate was claimable, he knew it was too late for any impediment to be thrown in its way:

* Vide Page 98.

and

and not knowing it could be affected by any subsequent proceeding; *sneeringly* referred him to his assignees; hinting, at the same time, that the investigation of his claim might lead to the discovery of circumstances which, in point of prudence, should be buried in oblivion; he added likewise in conclusion, that he could not, as a man of *honor* and *probity* withhold any information that might tend to the benefit of his estate;—and without waiting for a reply, turned upon his heel and retired. This insolent, and ill-judged conduct was resented, by the immediate lodgment of a petition for a review of the commission; in which allegations, of great enormity, were set forth. The first intimation of this proceeding having convinced the KING of his danger, and impressed him with a bitter sense, and repentance of his folly;—he endeavoured by all possible means to soothe, intimidate, or allure Mr. G——nt to withdraw his petition: but found him alike deaf to threats, promises, and entreaties. An issue at law was eventually directed by the Chancellor on the allegations of the petition; in which a verdict was given on the clearest evidence, (collected from the cross examination of the witnesses for the commission;) “*That the KING was neither indebted to the petitioning creditor; nor a trader, within the bankrupt laws; but a COMMON SWINDLER,*

as

as the petition of Mr. G——t described him." The commission was consequently superceded, by order of the court.

It will naturally be presumed that the sum levied, was now transferred to Mr. B—c—r; but the determinations of the law do not always secure the ends of justice.—The event of the question at issue, being uncertain, it was previously agreed between the solicitor for the commission; the agent for Mr. B—c—r; the petitioning creditor, and the bankrupt;—that, whatever might be the event, the sum levied should be divided in certain proportions, *among themselves*: and the division was consequently made, in strict conformity to the terms of their agreement.

The KING's respites from legal conflict were seldom of any long duration. The approach of the sessions now called his attention to the indictment for perjury;—Mr. W—l—y having refused his consent, for its removal to the King's bench.—The Old Bailey had ever been the object of his aversion and terror; which were infinitely increased by the hopelessness of his present case. He had turned his mind to the expedients of former occasions; and in vain had recourse to the fertility of his invention for some new device. He was literally at his wit's end.

While he was in this dilemma, his *Solicitor general* requested an audience. The KING would have put him off. He pressed to be admitted; his business he said was urgent. The KING advanced to the door; but a glimpse of Mr. Robinson's countenance, convincing him that he had some new disaster to report, he returned to his seat. Mr. Robinson entered; and the door being shut, he asked him hastily what had happened.

Robinson. " Poor Tom Freeman, God help him ! is———

The King. " Dead, I suppose ;—but there's nothing strange, Master Robinson, in a man's dying. We must all die, you know, some time or other.

Robinson. " True, Sir, but Tom isn't yet dead.

The King. " Then you've put on your funeral face, Sir, too soon. But what am I to understand ?

Robinson. " That your friend is in trouble. He was apprehended this morning by Capt. F———k, who conducted him to Bow street ; from whence, after a short hearing, he was committed for further examination to Tothill fields ; he will be brought up on Wednesday, and in the mean time be *Advertised*.

The King. " You might well look aghast.
" This

" This accident may have serious consequences.

" Have you any thing to suggest ?

Robinson. " Nothing I fear to poor Freeman's
" purpose ; for neither you or I can *appear* in his
" behalf : and it may be as well, perhaps, that
" your attorney-general should keep out of sight.

The King. " Would you leave him to his fate ?

Robinson. " Not so, neither. He is timid,
" and wants encouragement :—if neglected, he
" may be acted upon to our prejudice. You have
" heard of the new *meteor* that has of late appeared
" in our hemisphere ?

The King. " You mean *Mr. George Crossley*. I
" perfectly comprehend your idea, and will testify
" my approbation by putting it instantly in prac-
" tice.

Mr. Crossley was consequently engaged to attend Freeman at his next examination.—He displayed great address ; and, though many complainants appeared, would probably have succeeded for his admittance to bail, if a charge of *forgery*, on the Bank of *Messrs. Croft and Co.* had not come against him, at the instant the magistrates were deliberating, whether to admit him to bail, or not. The charge being clearly substantiated, he was committed for trial, without another effort in his favour.

The shock occasioned by this fatal and unexpected detection, divested the KING of every mental resource, and no hope of safety presented itself, but *in flight*.

The first intelligence of these proceedings at Bow street, brought his *attorney-general* to his aid; who, with Robinson, and the *new member* of his privy council, entered into a full consideration of the extreme danger, and exigency of his case. They totally disapproved his *withdrawing* himself;—but unanimously agreed, if he had any fear of what might come out in the prosecution of his *friend*; that his own trial, on the indictment for perjury, should be put off at *any* expence: as the *imprisonment* that must necessarily follow a conviction, would subject him to the *inevitable* necessity of *meeting* every possible consequence, of being implicated, in the case of Mr. Freeman. These reasons applying too forcibly to the KING's feelings, to be resisted:—a *proper application* was made, and the trial postponed by consent. It was concluded, however, that Robinson being *known* to have taken an *active* part in the forgery, should go immediately to France.

The KING had, on this occasion, communicated no more of his intentions, or inclinations, than
was

was necessary to the business of the moment. He still retained a *well founded* opinion that a change of climate, was the remedy best suited to his case: and, both he and the dowager, were indefatigable, during the two following months, in preparing for that purpose. The fruits of their industry clearly evinced, that, "*a coach is an important appendage to a stilted plan of depredation;*"—they experienced likewise that the addition of a *coronet* facilitated their negotiations, and prevented enquiries, which must have frustrated their artful, and impudent advances to obtain credit. Among the persons fascinated by the *coach* and *coronets*, was Mr. S—— of the Haymarket, a dealer in *prohibited*, and *contraband* goods; of which her ladyship obtained from him various articles, to the value of three hundred pounds,—accepting his draft at a month for the amount: but evaded the payment of it, under the UN-LADY-like subterfuge, *that no action could be maintained for goods of that description*. The KING was equally successful in passing off an annuity on the dowager's alimony, which might at once have entered on the list of his *bad debts*. The purchaser was an eminent optician;—the sum raised, six hundred pounds. These acquisitions, added to numberless others of less importance, obtained from tradesmen of every denomination; accumu-

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lated a property which, reckoned from the bills of parcels, &c. amounted, at the middle of October eighty four, to upwards of thirteen hundred pounds.

This interval was productive likewise of a piece of good fortune, which seemed to augur the returning favor of his Demon.

A visit from Mr. *Drage*, recalling to his recollection the purloinment of his letters, from the chancery office, by which he was extricated from a situation like that in which he now stood with Mr. B—c—r:—he proposed a question on the practicability of effecting any thing like it, in the present case. Assurances of honour and punctuality in rewarding them, were not forgotten; which, (notwithstanding his former failure) drew a promise from *Drage*, to confer with his colleague in that exploit; and if any chance of success appeared, to make the attempt. The filazer's office, in Pump court, being consequently reconnoitred; and the affidavit examined, for the purpose of observing where the file was deposited; they informed the KING that the scheme was *feasible*, but dangerous.

His entreaties, backed with a solemn promise
of

of two hundred pounds on the successful issue of their project, dissipated their thoughts of danger, and determined them to make the attempt. A favourable opportunity offered the same evening to force the office door; which they accomplished with a fragment of a plough-share,—got possession of the affidavit, and escaped undiscovered.—He made strong efforts to evade payment of the reward, as in the former case; but being assured they would restore his affidavit to the filazer if he deceived them, he laid down *one* hundred pounds; and having received the affidavit,—tore off the subscription with his teeth; and swallowed it,—as if, in revenge of the vexation, and expence it had occasioned.

The KING was too dependant on the breath of Freeman to omit any means of keeping him in spirits, and good humour. He had, therefore, lived sumptuously; and been daily assured, "*if all other efforts and dependences failed, that gold should mollify the rigour of the law, and in the worst event, secure his safety.*" Deluded by the frequent repetition of these insidious assurances; the day of trial arrived, without affecting him with sufficient sense, or apprehension of his danger, to excite exertion: and when *capitally convicted*, he retired from the court without any
doubt

doubt of being extricated through the *management* and address of the KING; who continued his attention to him, till the jurors delivered their verdict. But concluding him, from that moment, *to be dead in law*, and incapable therefore of doing him any harm;—he congratulated himself on the success of his duplicity, and totally discontinuing both his services, and civilities,—perfidiously abandoned his unfortunate friend, *to the rigour of the law*.

This premature discovery of his baseness, determined Freeman, if he could obtain a hearing, to unmask him still further; and, perhaps, entitle *himself* to some favour, by offering the best atonement in his power, for the numerous frauds, and depredations, in which he had been concerned. He wrote, therefore, to Captain F——, requesting to be favored with an opportunity of disclosing to him many particulars, relating to his own affair, and to other cases, in which both the parties themselves, and the public at large, were materially interested. He was, consequently, visited by persons, appointed to receive his communications: which, being thought sufficiently important, to entitle him to a mitigation of his punishment: his sentence of death was changed, to that of self-transportation.

Before any proceedings were actually commenced, on Freeman's application to Captain F——, the circumstance was publicly spoken of, and had reached the KING's ear.—Having no reason to think his communications would be made with any delicacy, or regard towards *him*; —and knowing what *must* be the consequence, if an unreserved disclosure was made; — he set instantly about preparing for an immediate decampment: and, in two days, he was on the road to *Dover*, with the DOWAGER, her two children, and her favourite dog.

The few hours allotted by the KING, to prepare for their departure, were employed chiefly in depositing, with various pawn-brokers, the numerous articles her ladyship had collected in her *shopping expeditions*; —and in *disposing* of the prohibited and contraband goods, she obtained from Mr. S——, which no pawnbroker would receive. The KING's impatience to be gone prevented their making a compleat clearance, either at the cottage, or the house in Park street, which were left, therefore, to the care of a Mr. M——er, who had *long* had the honour of being her ladyship's *confidential* agent, in *critical* circumstances and situations. He was particularly enjoined, if any persons of *suspicious appearance*, should enquire

quire on the day of their departure, or the day following, for the KING ; to leave every other concern, and pursue their route, till he should overtake them, or learn they had embarked. Their journey to Dover was accomplished with no other perplexity than, now and then, a false alarm, excited by the KING's apprehension of being pursued.

They were conducted, on their arrival, to a room which the dowager recollected to be the same in which she had formerly spent several days, with Lady G——r : with whom she was going to France, on a plan of *temperance*, and economy,—the most romantic that ever was imagined, by two women of their description : but while she waited for the packet, they disagreed in their choice of a residence. — Lady G——r proposed St. Omers. Was eloquent in favour of retirement. Lady ***** having charged her opinion, proposed to reconsider their plan. Each being tenacious, they were on the point of separating.—Lady ***** put a volume of her *Treſſay de Verge* into the hands of her companion, and left her to her meditations. The dose operated. Lady G——r's imagination regained its natural warmth. She perceived that the air of
a Gar-

a *Garrisoned town* would best suit their constitutions ; apologized for her stupidity ; and proceeded with Lady ***** to LISLE.

Her ladyship related this incident principally to divert the KING, not knowing he had any *concealed* cause of disquiet, or alarm. But his mind was in too perturbed a state to be amused by any thing less soothing, than the certainty of being out of danger : and to this end he ordered their baggage to be conveyed as expeditiously as possible to the Packet ; meaning to follow it as soon as they could be received on board.

It was some hours before he received the usual summons, for the passengers to assemble, which he delayed not to obey. He approached the place of embarkation with fear and trembling, but had the good fortune to reach the *Packet* without encountering the *dreaded* interruption ; — which he assuredly would have done, if her getting under way, had been delayed but another hour : for she had but just cleared the harbour when the captain was vociferously hailed by a *police officer* ; and supposing him to be a passenger, would have fallen a-stern ; but the timely application of a few guineas prevailed on him to proceed ; by which the officer was

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disappointed, and the KING reserved for the further adventures and exploits related in the second part of these Memoirs.

END OF THE FIRST PART.



COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

KING v. PARSONS.—This was an action for damages sustained by the plaintiff, in consequence of a libel sold by the defendant, intituled, "Anecdotes, &c. of his predatorial Majesty, the King of the Swindlers." Mr. Erskine and Mr. Gair w were for the plaintiff; Mr. Mingay for the defendant. The passage in the declaration was from the 1st number, describing Mr. King's low extraction, and subsequent elevation and degradation. The witnesses proved that this libel applied to Mr. John King, late of Burlington-street, since of Baker-street, and now of York-place. Lord Kenyon said, justice must be administered without respect of persons, and if this libel went unpunished, every other might.—Verdict for the plaintiff, 50l.

ERRATA.

- Page 20, l. 12, after *house*, read in *Lamb's Conduit Street*.
23, l. 9, for *irrefistable*, read *irrefistible*.
29, l. 16, for *brigiug*, read *bringing*.
60, l. 5, for *irrefistable*, read *irrefistible*.
63, l. 18, for *his* care, read *my* care.
87, l. 8, after *determined*, add *him*.
104, l. 4, for *in*, read *into*.
118, l. 10, for *predatorial*, read *predatory*.
122, l. 13, for *five hundred*, read *five hundred and fifty*.
123, l. 7, for *eight hundred*, read *eight hundred and fifty*.
173, l. 4, for *enfamilla*, read *en famille*.
229, l. 11, for *purchasing by*, read *by purchasing*.
242, l. 3, for *birts*, read *filberts*.
298, l. 19, for *charged*, read *changed*.

